

Big Man On Campus



President Barack Obama delivers the commencement address during a graduation ceremony at Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio, May 5, 2013.

(Christopher Gregory/The New York Times)

ISRAELI STRIKES SHAKE REGION

BASSEM MROUE

IAN DEITCH

Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — Israeli warplanes struck targets in the Syrian capital Sunday for the second time in three days, officials and activists said, unleashing a series of massive explosions and raising fears of possible wider conflict in the region. The attacks, which Israeli officials said targeted sophisticated, Iranian-made guided missiles believed to be bound for Lebanon's Hezbollah militant group, marked a sharp spike in Israel's involvement in Syria's bloody civil war. Syrian state media reported that Israeli missiles struck a military and scientific research center near Damascus and caused casualties. Syria's government called the attacks against its territory a "flagrant violation of international law" that has made the Middle East "more dangerous."

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Syrian Information Minister Omran al-Zoubi speaks during a press conference in Damascus, Syria, Sunday, May. 5, 2013. (AP photo)

Obama tells grads to reject anti-government talk

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COLUMBUS, Ohio — Acknowledging that commencement addresses are no place for partisanship, President Barack Obama nonetheless skirted close to that political line on Sunday, telling graduates at Ohio State University to ignore anti-government arguments that "gum up the works" and instead aspire to be citizens who value both individual rights and community responsibilities. "Unfortunately, you've grown up hearing voices that incessantly warn of government as nothing more than some separate,

sinister entity that's at the root of all our problems," Obama told the crowd at the Ohio State commencement ceremony, which totaled almost 60,000 people. "They'll warn that tyranny is always lurking just around the corner. You should reject these voices." Ohio State graduates, their families and friends turned the university's huge football stadium into a sea of red and gray, the school's colors. Obama noted it was his fifth visit to the campus in the past year, reflecting the importance of Ohio and young voters to his reelection in November.

But this was the president's first trip here in his young second term, which has already faced setbacks in Congress over the budget and legislation to reduce gun violence. Obama is now confronting the escalating violence in the Middle East and a push to overcome Republican opposition to an overhaul of immigration law that would provide a path to citizenship to about 11 million people who are in the country illegally. On Wednesday in Austin, Texas, Obama will resume his occasional trips outside Washington to press for long-blocked initiatives

supporting infrastructure projects, education and a higher minimum wage. But in the commencement speech Sunday, the first of three that he plans to give during this graduation season, Obama mostly steered clear of those subjects and others dividing him and Republicans, to deliver an address that was a pitch for good citizenship and an optimistic message for the graduates about their futures as the economy recovers from the most serious financial crisis since the Great Depression.

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Israeli strikes in Syria raise regional tensions

It said "Israel should know that our people and state do not accept humiliation" and warned Syria has the right "to defend its people by all available means."

The generally muted response, read out by the information minister after an emergency government meeting, and appeared to signal that Damascus did not want the situation to escalate.

Instead, it tried to use the strikes to taint the opposition, claiming the attacks were evidence of an alliance between Israel and Islamic extremist groups trying to overthrow President Bashar Assad.

The air raids pose a dilemma for the regime: Failure to respond could make it look weak and open the door to more strikes, but retaliating militarily against Israel would risk dragging the Jewish state and its powerful army into a broader conflict.

The tempo of the new strikes added a dangerous dynamic to the conflict, fueling concerns that events could spin out of control and spark a regional crisis. Israel's military, possibly bracing for Syrian retaliation, deployed two batteries of its Iron Dome rocket defense system to the north of the country on Sunday. It described the move as part of "ongoing situational assessments."

A senior Israeli official, who spoke on condition of anonymity in order to disclose information about a secret military operation, confirmed that Israel launched an airstrike in the Syrian capital early Sunday but did not give more precise details about the location. The target was Fateh-110 missiles, which have precision guidance systems with better aim than anything Hezbollah is known to have in its arsenal, the official

told The Associated Press. The airstrikes come as Washington considers how to respond to indications that the Syrian regime may have used chemical weapons in its civil war. President Barack Obama has described the use of such weapons as a "red line," and the administration is weighing its options — including possible military action. The White House declined for a second day to confirm or comment di-

rectly on the airstrikes in Syria, but said Obama believes Israel has the right to defend itself against threats from groups like Hezbollah. "The Israelis are justifiably concerned about the threat posed by Hezbollah obtaining advanced weapons systems, including some long-range missiles" White House spokesman Josh Earnest told reporters aboard Air Force One as Obama traveled to Ohio. □



An Israeli Iron Dome missile is launched near the city of Be'er Sheva, southern Israel. Israel's military has deployed Iron Dome defense system to the north of the country on Sunday May 5, 2013 following Israeli airstrikes in neighboring Syria targeting weapons believed to be destined for Lebanon's Hezbollah militants.

(AP Photo/Ahikam Seri)

Malaysia's ruling coalition wins national election

**EILEEN NG
SEAN YOONG
Associated Press**

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP) — Malaysia's long-governing coalition won national elections Sunday to extend its 56 years of unbroken rule, fending off the strongest opposition it has ever faced but exposing vulnerabilities in the process.

The Election Commission reported that Prime Minister Najib Razak's National Front coalition captured 127 of Malaysia's 222 parliamentary seats to win a majority Sunday. Opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim's three-party alliance seized 77 seats, and other races were too close to call.

It was the National Front's 13th consecutive victory in general elections since independence from Britain in 1957. It faced its most unified challenge ever from an opposition that hoped to capitalize on allegations of arrogance, abuse of public funds and racial discrimination against the government.

Najib urged all Malaysians to accept his coalition's victory. "We have to show to the world that we are a mature democracy," he said.

"Despite the extent of the swing against us, (the National Front) did not fall," he said in a nationally televised news conference.

Anwar signaled the opposition might dispute the results, saying "irregularities" cost his alliance numerous seats with narrow margins. Within minutes of the National Front's declaration of victory, thousands of Malaysian opposition supporters replaced their Facebook profile photos with black boxes in a coordinated sign of dismay.

The Election Commission estimated more than 10 million voted for a record turnout of 80 percent of 13 million registered voters. They were also voting to fill vacancies in 12 of Malaysia's 13 state legislatures. □

Suicide car bomber kills 7 in Somali capital

**ABDI GULED
Associated Press**

MOGADISHU, Somalia (AP)

— Seven people were killed Sunday morning when a suicide bomber attempted to ram a car laden with explosives into a military convoy escorting a four-member Qatari delegation.

Gen. Garad Nor Abdulle, a senior police official said the members of the Qatari delegation who were being escorted in the interior minister's convoy were unharmed and safely reached their hotel.

Abdulle said the interior minister was not in the con-

voy. Mohamed Abdi, an officer at the scene of the blast, said four civilians and a soldier died immediately. Another two people died in hospital and 18 were being treated of wounds from the blast, said Dr. Duniya Mohamed Ali at the Medina hospital. The Qatari delegates are involved in development projects in Mogadishu, Somali president Hassan Sheikh Mohamud said.

Mohamud blamed al-Qaida-linked Somali militant group al-Shabab for the attack. He said "suspects" have been arrested.

After the explosion soldiers fired in the air to disperse crowds that had gathered at the blast site at the busy KM4 junction.

Separately, four Somali soldiers were wounded Sunday when a roadside bomb struck a government vehicle in Deynile district, in Mogadishu's northwest, said Ali Jimale, a captain with the Somali police.

The Somali government reopened key roads in the Somali capital, Mogadishu, four days ago which had been closed for security reasons. The roads were closed after the govern-

ment received intelligence that militants were planning attacks, officials said.

KM4 is among the busiest roads in Mogadishu, largely used by government officials and African Union forces. It connects the presidential compound and other government offices to the airport.

The car bombing falls into a pattern of attacks blamed on the Islamic extremist group al-Shabab, which has been pushed out of much of the areas it occupied in South and Central Somalia by African Union troops. □

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Obama tells grads to reject anti-government talk

Continued from front

"While things are still hard for a lot of people, you have every reason to believe that your future is bright," Obama said. "You are graduating into an economy and a job market that are steadily healing."

The president described the graduates' generation as having "a deep sense of service that makes me optimistic for our future." Ohio State's class of 2013, he noted, included military veterans, volunteers for the Peace Corps and Teach for America, and entrepreneurs are already running startup companies.

Their lives, he said, started as the Cold War was ending and the Internet age was beginning, and they came of age as the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, wars, recession and technological advances transformed America.

"You have been tested and you've been tempered by events that your parents and I never imagined we'd see when we sat where you sit," he said. "And yet despite all this, or more likely because of it, yours has become a generation possessed with that most American of ideas – that people who love their country can change it for the better." Citizenship, he said, is sometimes seen "as a virtue from another time, the distant past – one that's slipping from a society that celebrates individual ambition above all else, a society awash in instant technology that empowers us to leverage our skills and talents like never before, but just as easily allows us to retreat from the world. And the result is that we sometimes forget the larger bonds we share as one American family." Obama urged the gradu-



President Barack Obama during a graduation ceremony at Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio, May 5, 2013. Obama delivered the commencement address for the event and was conferred an honorary doctorate.

(Christopher Gregory/The New York Times)

ates to find not just a career but a cause for the greater good. Perhaps, he said, they might even run

for public office.

"I promise you, it'll give you a tough skin. I know a little bit about this," he said.

"President Wilson once said, 'If you want to make enemies, try to change something.'" □



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Patrol Chief:

Five women die in limo fire on California bridge

JOHN S. MARSHALL
Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — A stretch limousine taking nine women to a bachelorette party erupted in flames, killing five of the passengers, including the bride-to-be, authorities and the mother of one of the survivors said Sunday. The limo caught fire around 10 p.m. Saturday on one of the busiest bridges on San Francisco Bay, California Highway Patrol officer Art Montiel told The Associated Press.

Five of the women were trapped, but the four other women managed to get out after the vehicle came to a stop on the San Mateo-Hayward Bridge, the patrol said. The driver of the limo — 46-year-old Orville Brown of San Jose — was the only person to escape unhurt.

Rosita Guardiano told the

San Francisco Chronicle that the woman for whom the bachelorette party

was being thrown was to be married next month. Guardiano said her daughter

was one of the survivors. Investigators haven't determined what sparked the

fire, but the patrol said the white stretch limo became engulfed in flames after smoke started coming out of the rear of the vehicle.

A photo taken by a witness and broadcast on KTVU-TV showed flames shooting from the back.

Aerial video shot after the incident showed about one-third of the back half of the limousine had been scorched by the fire. Its taillights and bumper were gone and it appeared to be resting on its rims, but the remainder of the vehicle didn't appear to be damaged.

It wasn't clear if any other drivers on the bridge stopped and tried to help those get out, or how the driver managed to escape without injury.

The company that operated the limo was identified as Limo Stop, a company that operates service through limousines, vans and SUVs. A call left at the company seeking comment by The Associated Press was not immediately returned.

Autopsies were being conducted to determine the exact causes of death, said San Mateo County Supervising Deputy Coroner Michelle Rippy. All five women were pronounced dead at the scene.

Attempts by The Associated Press to reach the driver for comment were unsuccessful.

Guardiano said her daughter — 42-year-old Mary Grace Guardiano of Alameda — was being treated for smoke inhalation.

The other three women who escaped the fire, Jasmine Desguia, 34, of San Jose; Nelia Arrellano, 36, of Oakland; and Amalia Loyola, 48, of San Leandro, were taken to area hospitals where they were being treated for smoke inhalation and burns, the patrol said. □



San Mateo County firefighters and California Highway Patrol personnel investigate the scene of a limousine fire on the westbound side of the San Mateo-Hayward Bridge in Foster City, Calif., on Saturday, May 4, 2013.
(AP Photo/Jane Tyska)



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Uncle arranging Boston bomb suspect's burial rites



Ruslan Tsarni, right, uncle of killed Boston Marathon bombing suspect Tamerlan Tsarnaev, prepares to speak with reporters in front of the Graham, Putnam, and Mahoney Funeral Parlors, in Worcester, Mass., as funeral director and owner Peter Stefan, left, stands nearby, Sunday, May 5, 2013. Stefan has pleaded for government officials to use their influence to convince a cemetery to bury Tsarnaev, but so far no state or federal authorities have stepped forward.

(AP Photo/Steven Senne)

DENISE LAVOIE

Associated Press

WORCESTER, Massachusetts (AP) —

The uncle of the Boston Marathon bombing suspect killed in a gun battle with police arrived at a funeral home Sunday to prepare his body for burial.

Ruslan Tsarni of Montgomery Village, Maryland, and three other men met with Worcester funeral home director Peter Stefan. The men who accompanied Tsarni plan to wash and shroud the body of 26-year-old Tamerlan Tsarnaev according to Muslim tradition, the uncle said.

Tsarnaev, who had appeared in surveillance photos wearing a black cap and was identified as Suspect No. 1, died days after the April 15 bombing at the marathon finish line, which killed three people and wounded more than 260 others.

Tsarni told reporters that he is arranging for Tsarnaev's burial because religion and tradition call for his nephew to be buried. He said his friends came along to help him prepare Tsarnaev's body and he understands that "no one wants to associate their names with such evil acts."

Stefan said he has received calls from people criticizing him and calling him "un-

American" for being willing to handle Tsarnaev's funeral.

"We take an oath to do this. Can I pick and choose? No. Can I separate the sins from the sinners? No," he said. "We are burying a dead body. That's what we do."

A half dozen protesters gathered outside the funeral home Sunday holding signs and American flags and chanting "USA!" One sign read: "Do not bury him on U.S. soil." Several people drove by the funeral home earlier Sunday and yelled, including one man who shouted, "Throw him off a boat like Osama bin Laden!" The al-Qaida leader was buried at sea after he was killed by Navy SEALs in a raid on his compound in Pakistan.

Stefan said he hasn't been able to find a cemetery in Massachusetts willing to take the body, but he has received offers to provide a grave and to contribute money toward the funeral expenses from people in other states. Stefan said he plans to ask the city of Cambridge, where Tsarnaev lived, to provide a burial plot, and if Cambridge turns him down, he will seek help from state officials.

Stefan said Tsarnaev's uncle told him he is anxious to

bury his nephew.

"They just want to get it over with. They want to get him buried," Stefan said.

The state medical examiner ruled that Tsarnaev died from gunshot wounds and blunt trauma to his head and torso. Stefan said Sunday that the family won't request that an independent medical examiner perform a second autopsy, but representatives from the family's legal team might photograph Tsarnaev's body before it's washed.

Tsarni has denounced the acts that his nephews — Tamerlan and younger brother Dzhokhar — are accused of committing and has said they brought shame to the family and the entire Chechen community. □

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NRA officials issue rallying cry for midterm elections

JAMES DAO

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HOUSTON — In speech after speech at the National Rifle Association's annual convention this weekend, its top leaders and politi-

rallying cry to members to become a political force in next year's midterm elections and the 2016 presidential race.

"We are in the midst of a once-in-a-generation

tion center here on Saturday. "We have a chance to secure our freedom for a generation, or to lose it forever."

"We must remain vigilant, ever resolute, and stead-

posals to expand background checks for gun buyers last month, LaPierre said that the Senate fight had helped swell the association's membership to a record 5 million people.

Not surprisingly, perhaps, the convention theme was "Stand and Fight" and much of the fight was directed toward Obama, Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg of New York and those LaPierre described as their supporters in the "media elite" who were "conspiring right now, regrouping, planning, organizing" to exploit "the next horrific crime."

"The Senate bill 'wouldn't have prevented Newtown, couldn't have prevented Tucson or Aurora and won't prevent the next tragedy," he said.

Later on, he added the Boston Marathon bombings to bolster his position. "How many Bostonians wished they had a gun two weeks ago?" LaPierre said. "How many other Americans now ponder that life-or-death question?"

LaPierre and James W. Porter II, who was expected to be named president by the board of directors Monday, succeeding

David Keene, both urged NRA members to become active in the 2014 midterm elections — which Porter described as more important than last year's presidential election — and then the 2016 presidential race. "We do that and Obama can be stopped," Porter said. The lineup of speakers at Friday's Leadership Forum looked like the early season race card for the 2016 Republican presidential primaries, featuring Sen. Ted Cruz and Gov. Rick Perry of Texas, Gov. Bobby Jindal of Louisiana, and Sarah Palin, the former Alaska governor and Republican vice-presidential candidate, as well as video appearances by Rep. Paul Ryan and Gov. Scott Walker, both of Wisconsin. Palin, wearing a black T-shirt that said "Women Hunt," criticized gun control proposals that "won't even work for their stated intended purposes." Cruz warned that any infringement on the Bill of Rights would undermine the entire Constitution. And just about every speaker poked fun at the NRA's favorite cast of enemies: Vice President Joe Biden, Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., Sen. Charles E. Schumer, D-N.Y., and Bloomberg, whom LaPierre described as the "national nanny."

Critics of the NRA lined up outside the convention center.

Even as the speeches ground on in a huge meeting hall, thousands of members were downstairs, where acre upon acre of kiosks displayed the latest in hunting and camping equipment, and weaponry, from futuristic black-matte rifles to six-shooters to knives that would have made Jim Bowie envious. □



Advertisements during the National Rifle Association's annual convention in Houston, May 5, 2013. In speech after speech at the convention, its top leaders and political allies blasted President Barack Obama and other gun control advocates and issued a rallying cry to become a political force in upcoming elections.

(Eric Kayne/The New York Times)

cal allies blasted President Barack Obama and other gun control advocates, warned against "all-out, historic attacks" on the constitutional right to possess firearms and issued a

fight for everything we care about," Wayne R. LaPierre, the association's executive vice president and principal spokesman, told a cheering throng of members at the conven-

tion center here on Saturday. "We have a chance to secure our freedom for a generation, or to lose it forever."

California:

Cooler weather aids fight against wildfire

CAMARILLO, California (AP)

— Cool, moist air moving into Southern California on Sunday helped firefighters build containment lines around a huge wildfire burning through coastal mountains.

Fire crews took advantage of improved conditions as the high winds and hot, dry air of recent days were replaced by the normal Pa-

cific air, significantly reducing fire activity.

The 44-square-mile (114-square-kilometer) blaze at the western end of the Santa Monica Mountains was 60 percent surrounded.

Full containment was expected Monday, according to Ventura County fire officials.

The progress led authorities

to lift all remaining evacuation orders.

"We've really transitioned from a fire attack to a mop-up patrol," Nick Schuler, battalion chief for the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, told the Ventura County Star. One firefighter was injured in the Newbury Park area while battling the blaze and was taken to a

hospital, the newspaper said. The National Weather Service said an approaching low pressure system would bring a 20 percent chance of showers Sunday afternoon, with the likelihood increasing into the night and on Monday. Nearly 2,000 firefighters using engines, bulldozers and aircraft worked to corral the blaze. □

Police:

Utah soccer referee punched by player dies

MURRAY, Utah (AP) — Ricardo Portillo's daughters had begged him to stop refereeing in a Hispanic soccer league because of the growing risk of violence from angry players. Now they're faced with planning his funeral after he succumbed to injuries late Saturday that had put him in a coma for a week since a 17-year-old goalie punched him in the head. Authorities say the teen punched Portillo after the youth was called for a foul and issued a yellow card. "The suspect was close to Portillo and punched him once in the face as a result of the call," Unified police spokesman Justin Hoyal in a press release. The suspect has been booked into juvenile detention on suspicion of aggravated assault. Hoyal said authorities will consid-

er additional charges since the 46-year-old Salt Lake City man has died. Hoyal said an autopsy is planned. No cause of death was released. Portillo suffered swelling in his brain and had been listed in critical condition, Dr. Shawn Smith said Thursday at the Intermountain Medical Center in the Salt Lake City suburb of Murray. The victim's family spoke publicly of Portillo's plight this past week, but has asked for privacy, Hoyal said. The unaffiliated soccer league, Liga Continental de Fútbol, updated its Facebook posting Sunday with a tribute to Portillo including a number of photographs of him refereeing and playing soccer. It also set up a bank account to accept donations for his family. No plans have been announced for a funeral or



Jose Lopez, points to an undated photo of Riccardo Portillo, center, his brother-in-law, in Murray, Utah.

(AP Photo/Rick Bowmer)

memorial services.

Mario Vazquez, the league president who also was a friend and worked with Portillo,

said Sunday everyone in the league had the greatest respect for him.

"We will miss him at the soccer fields.

He loved the game and loved doing his job. Ricardo always had a great sense of humor and loved being in the service of others," Vazquez said.

"Our thoughts and prayers are with the Portillo family during this difficult time. Ricardo will always be with us," he said.

Daughter Johana Portillo, 26, said last week that she wasn't at the April 27 game in the Salt Lake City suburb of Taylorsville, but she said she's been told by witnesses and detectives that the player hit her father in the side of the head. □

Student arrested in Boston bombings seeking release

KATHARINE Q. SEELYE
© 2013 New York Times

BOSTON — Robel Phillippos, the former University of Massachusetts student who is accused of lying to the authorities investigating the Boston Marathon bombings, will seek to be released from federal custody on Monday, his lawyers said in court papers filed over the weekend. The lawyers said that Phillippos, 19, had nothing to do with the bombings and was frightened and confused when he was interrogated about going with two other friends to the college dorm room of Dzhokhar Tsarnaev, one of the two chief suspects in the case, and removing a backpack and fireworks that the investigators consider to be evidence. The other suspect, Tsarnaev's older brother, Tamerlan, 26, was killed after a shootout with the police.

As Washington gears up this week for its first hearings on the Boston Marathon

bombings, Rep. Peter King, R-N.Y., said Sunday that he believed the brothers did not act alone.

"It's very difficult to believe that these two could have carried out this level of attack with this level of sophistication and precision acting by themselves, either without training from overseas or having at least facilitators here at home," King, a former chairman of the House Committee on Homeland Security, said on the CNN program "State of the Union."

Noting that there were multiple explosive devices involved, he added: "No, I think there had to be assistance, and that's why the FBI, I think, is going after this so vigorously and effectively."

So far, only Dzhokhar Tsarnaev has been charged in carrying out the bombings, which killed three people and injured more than 260 others on April 15 near the finish line of Boston's prestigious race. □

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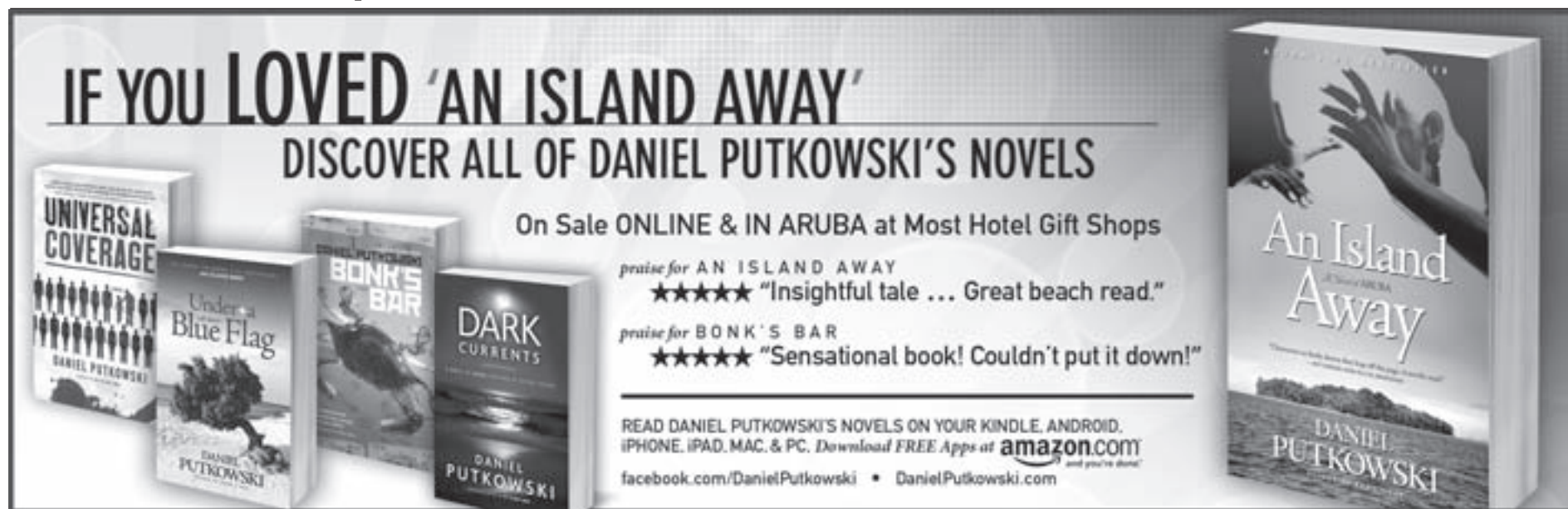
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UK lawmaker denies sex assault, rape allegations

C. VINOGRAD

Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — A senior British Conservative Party politician arrested on suspicion of rape and sexual assault said Sunday the allegations against him are "completely false."

Deputy House of Commons Speaker Nigel Evans, 55, was arrested on Saturday. He was questioned about sex offenses that allegedly took place between July 2009 and March 2013 and was later released on bail. Evans — who has served in Parliament for two decades and is one of Britain's most prominent gay lawmakers — said the allegations were made by "two people well known to each other" and who until a day earlier he had

regarded as friends.

"The complaints are completely false and I cannot understand why they have been made, especially as

I have continued to socialize with one as recently as last week," he said, thanking colleagues and friends who echoed his own

"sense of incredulity" over the allegations.

He did not address whether he would stay on as deputy speaker in his brief

prepared statement on Sunday, but a spokesman for the House of Commons confirmed that Evans had asked to be excused from chairing the Queen's Speech debate due to start on Wednesday.

The debate comes after Queen Elizabeth II opens a new session of Parliament with a speech outlining the government's legislative plans, and lawmakers then debate the content of the speech over several days. Lee Bridges, the spokesman, said Evans had asked Speaker John Bercow to excuse him from the debate in the House of Commons and that the speaker was "happy to give him that" time, which could last about a week.

British officials, including Defense Secretary Philip Hammond, expressed shock over his arrest, while Foreign Secretary William Hague called him a "popular and well-respected member of Parliament." Evans has been a lawmaker for the Lancashire constituency since 1992. In June 2010, he was elected one of the three deputy speakers for the House of Commons.

Later that year, he told a newspaper he was gay, saying he was "tired of living a lie" and that opponents had threatened to expose his sexuality.

"I could not afford it to be used as leverage against me," he told The Mail on Sunday at the time. "I couldn't take the risk. I don't want any other MP to face that kind of nastiness again." □



Britain's Deputy House speaker Nigel Evans gives a press statement at his home in Pendleton, north west England, where he said Sunday May 5, 2013, that allegations him for rape and sexual assault are "completely false." (AP Photo/PA, Owen Humphreys)

Attacks kill 9, wound 33 across Baghdad

SAMEER N. YACOB

Associated Press

BAGHDAD (AP) — A series of attacks including a blast near an Internet cafe in a Sunni area of Baghdad killed nine people and wounded dozens on Sunday in and around the Iraqi capital.

The attacks came amid heightened sectarian tension following a deadly security crackdown on a camp in northern Iraq run by Sunnis, protesting what they consider to be their second-class treatment by the Shiite-led government. Government investigators say the April 23 incident left 40 people dead, while a spate of follow-up attacks and battles has killed well over 200 more.

The bloodshed has raised fears that the country could be heading for a new wave of sectarian fighting like that which nearly pushed it to the brink of civil war in the middle of the last decade.

Police officials said that the first attack occurred Sunday morning when a bomb went off near Zein al-Abideen mosque in the western suburbs of Baghdad. One passerby was killed, six others were wounded and the outer wall of the mosque was damaged.

Hours later, police said, gunmen stormed the house of a district mayor in Mahmoudiya town, killing the mayor and his son. Mahmoudiya is 30 kilometers (20 miles) south of

Baghdad.

At night, police said that a bomb exploded near an Internet cafe in a Sunni neighborhood in western Baghdad, killing three people and wounding 13 others.

Minutes later, three people were killed and 14 others wounded when mortar shells landed on houses on the western edge of Baghdad.

Hospital officials confirmed the casualties. All officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they are not authorized to speak to the media.

Violence has ebbed in Iraq, yet insurgent attacks are still frequent.

Meanwhile, Iraq's Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki said

that his government will continue to follow up on fake bomb detectors sold to Iraq years ago by a British businessman, according to a statement posted on the prime minister's web site. Al-Maliki's comments came days after a British judge sentenced James McCormick to 10 years in jail for selling fake bomb detectors to several countries, saying the millionaire had shown a cavalier disregard for potentially fatal consequences.

Al-Maliki added that Iraqi authorities had taken the necessary measures regarding this issue a long time ago and that some of the people involved were convicted. He did not elaborate. □

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Thousands of leftists protest Hollande's 1st year

SARAH DiLORENZO
Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — Tens of thousands of supporters of leftist parties marched through central Paris on Sunday to express disappointment with President Francois Hollande's first year in power, criticizing the leader for renegeing on his promises to rein in the world of finance and enact economic stimulus.

Hollande, a Socialist, rose to the presidency last May, promising to spare France the austerity measures imposed elsewhere in Europe. And the French government has largely avoided the deep spending cuts, big tax hikes and the wide-ranging reforms of many of its neighbors. Instead, it has nibbled around the edges of its deficit, cutting 10 billion euros (\$13 billion) in spending and increasing taxes, largely on the rich, by 20

billion euros. That's relatively little for a country with 2 trillion euro economy of which 57 percent is government spending.

Still, France's economy has continued to deteriorate, with growth stagnating and unemployment rising above 10 percent.

Leftists who took the streets on Sunday — largely from parties to the left of Hollande's mainstream Socialist Party — rejected the notion that Hollande had spared France a worse fate.

"Salaries are frozen. They continue to reduce hiring in the public sector," said Brigitte Blang, a 64-year-old teacher from eastern France. "We're waiting for true leftist policies. There's money in the coffers!"

Blang was among tens of thousands of people from around the country who gathered around Paris' iconic Place de la Bas-

tille, named for the prison stormed by French revolutionaries in 1789. They carried signs that said, "Down with austerity," "Out with

After speeches, the crowd marched to another Paris square.

Several protesters acknowledged that they vot-

the support of those on the far left protesting in Paris on Sunday while also angering the right — who think his economic reforms and budget cuts haven't gone far enough — has made him one the least popular presidents in modern French history.

In a sign of how he is being squeezed from both sides, police said 15,000 people — largely right-leaning — gathered in another part of Paris on Sunday to protest the recent passage of a law legalizing gay marriage.

Hollande and his ministers have pleaded for more time to allow their policies to take hold.

On the one hand, France's reluctance to enact major budget cuts may seem prescient to some as many economists and politicians in Europe rethink the austerity programs demanded in exchange for bailouts. □



A man holds a banner with pictures of world leaders and reads "wall of idiots" march during a rally to protest the austerity plan of French President Francois Hollande in Paris, Sunday, May 5, 2013. (AP Photo/Michel Euler)

finance, humans first" and "OUSTerity — finance should pay."

Paris police said 30,000 people showed up, although protest organizers said there were 180,000.

ed for Hollande a year ago — either simply to ensure the incumbent Nicolas Sarkozy's defeat or because they had hope for his leadership.

Hollande's failure to keep

Afghanistan:

1 German soldier killed, 1 wounded

BERLIN (AP) — Insurgents in northern Afghanistan have killed a German special forces soldier and wounded a second, the German defense minister said Sunday.

The fatality marks the first death in combat of a member of Germany's special forces in Afghanistan.

The soldiers were accompanying an Afghan-led military operation on Saturday when insurgents opened fire at a river crossing in Baghlan province, using fire arms and rocket-propelled grenades.

The troops called in air support but the special forces soldier was fatally shot later when exploring the airstrike's damage, De-

fense Minister Thomas de Maiziere said. The wounded special forces soldier's condition was not life-threatening, he added.

The 1,000-strong special forces are considered to be the German military's elite force, similar to U.S. Navy SEALs.

Several insurgents are believed to have been killed in the fighting some 26 ki-

lometers (16 miles) north of the German base near the city of Baghlan, the military said. There was no immediate information on casualties among the Afghan troops, it added.

The NATO-led coalition forces in Kabul said late Saturday that one international service member had been killed in the north but provided no details. □

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Libya passes strict ban on Gadhafi-era officials

AYA BATRAWY
ESAM MOHAMED
Associated Press

TRIPOLI, Libya (AP) — Libya's parliament passed a law on Sunday banning officials who served under ousted dictator Moammar Gadhafi from government posts, a move that could push many of the country's new leaders from office. The Political Isolation Law injects a new dose of uncertainty into Libyan politics during a still-fragile transition. It comes at a time when the government is struggling to rein in militias and politicians are grappling with a weak central government and lawlessness. Its backers say it is necessary to complete the 2011 revolution against Gadhafi,

who was captured and killed at the hands of rebels fighting him. Critics charge that the law is too broad, and that its vague wording could force out people like the prime minister who held fairly minor posts during Gadhafi's more than 40-year rule. Many of these officials played a key role during the uprising that overthrew Gadhafi. Several drafts of the bill were discussed over the past several months, and it was not immediately clear how the final draft will be applied. Those who it does affect will be banned from government positions for 10 years. Thousands of Libyans in Tripoli celebrated in the streets after the law was passed, waving the coun-



Libyan interim president, Mohammed el-Megarif, flashes the victory sign to crowds during the celebration of the second anniversary of the Libyan revolution in Benghazi, Libya. Libya's parliament passed a law on Sunday, May 5, 2013, that bans officials who held senior positions under ousted dictator Moammar Gadhafi from holding high-level government posts, a move that could disqualify much of the country's political elite from office including head of Congress, Mohammed al-Megarif.

(AP Photo/Mohammad Hannon)

try's new flag that was the symbol of rebel fighters during the devastating eight-month 2011 civil war.

Before the vote, protesters had placed images of people killed in the war on empty coffins laid outside parliament, a message that Gadhafi-era officials were not welcome in government.

The law was passed only days after militias surrounded government offices in Tripoli to force parliament to adopt an expansive version of the law.

Deputy head of parliament Juma Attiga, who oversaw the vote, told the TV station Libya Ahrar that militias had pressured parliament to vote in favor of the law, but that he had planned to vote yes in any case.

The General National Congress, Libya's elected parliament, voted overwhelmingly in favor of the law. □



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Venezuela: Government condemns Obama's comments

JORGE RUEDA
Associated Press
CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)

— Venezuela's government this weekend angrily rejected comments made by U.S. President Barack Obama about the South American country's political crisis and accused Washington of being behind violence that has followed its recent presidential election. A foreign ministry statement said that Obama's "fallacious, intemperate and interventionist declaration" will lead toward deteriorating relations between the countries and "confirms to the world the policy of aggression his government maintains against our country." The statement read by Foreign Minister Elias Jaua on

state television referred to comments the U.S. president made to Spanish-language television network Univision during his trip to Mexico and Costa Rica. In the interview that aired Friday, Obama wouldn't say if the United States recognizes Nicolas Maduro as Venezuela's new president following elections that have been disputed by the opposition. When asked, he replied that it's up to the people of Venezuela to choose their leaders in legitimate elections. He also said that reports indicate that basic principles of human rights, democracy, press freedom and freedom of assembly were not observed in Venezuela following the election.

"Venezuela rejects with all the force of its Bolivarian dignity the declaration by United States President Barack Obama which again attacks the legitimate Venezuelan government," the foreign ministry statement said.

Maduro, the hand-picked successor to late Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez, narrowly won April 14 presidential elections. But opposition leader Henrique Capriles contends the election was stolen from him and has challenged the result.

Tensions between supporters on both sides remain high, with tens of thousands of Venezuelans protesting in the streets.

Lawmakers even brawled on the floor of the National Assembly last week. □

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Haiti hotelier: Aristide creates political party

TRENTON DANIEL
Associated Press
PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP)

— Former Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide is trying to rebuild his political party as the Caribbean nation prepares for legislative and local elections, a prominent hotelier said Sunday.

Richard Morse, manager of the famed Hotel Oloffson, said he has met with Aristide three times in the past two weeks to discuss the possibility of his wife, Lunise Exume Morse, running under Aristide's party as a senatorial candidate in a vote that's supposed to be held before year's end. The husband and wife also met with a leader of Aristide's Lavalas Family party. "He's back, and he's trying to get good people on his team," Morse said by telephone. "I think he feels that his party has to become a player and bring people together."

The Morses are still considering Lunise Exume Morse's candidacy for the west department, which includes the capital of Port-au-Prince, Morse said. Married since 1989, the couple sings together in a popular voodoo-inspired rock band that performs at the Oloffson on Thursday nights.

The admission by Morse caps widespread speculation over Aristide's political ambitions following his return to Haiti in March 2011, and marks the first time Aristide is reported to be making such moves. □

Grim outlook for Venezuela's oil industry

FABIOLA SANCHEZ
Associated Press
MORON, Venezuela (AP)

— Only the filthy water from broken sewer pipes keeps the dust down in front of Ramon Boet's shop, which sells statues of saints and other religious objects.

In the distance, massive tankers pull up to a half-century-old refinery that processes much of the oil that earns Venezuela more than \$100 billion a year.

"It doesn't help us at all," Boet, 58, says as a blackout snuffs the lights in his shop in this Caribbean coastal town. He closes before dusk. Too many robbers.

The oil flowing from the El Palito refinery sells for more than five times what it cost when President Hugo Chavez took office in 1999. Yet when Chavez died in March he left Venezuela's cash cow, its state-run oil company, in such dire straits that analysts say \$100-a-barrel oil may no longer be enough to keep the country afloat barring a complete overhaul of a deteriorating petroleum industry.

The situation is more urgent than ever, analysts say. The price of crude has slumped in recent weeks and Chavez's heir, Nicolas Maduro, appears to have done little to address declining production, billions in debt and infrastructure deficiencies that have caused major accidents including a blaze that killed at least 42 people at Venezuela's largest refinery last year.

Maduro has retained Chavez's oil minister and the head of state oil company Petroleos de Venezuela S.A., Rafael Ramirez.

And he appears intent on continuing to send cut-rate oil to members of the 18-nation Petrocaribe alliance, for which Venezuela is hosting a summit on Sat-

Venezuela has the world's largest oil reserves but PDVSA's production, earnings and income all appear to be on a downward slide and its debts to suppliers



People wait for transportation on a street corner in Moron, Venezuela. Oil prices are falling at exactly the wrong time for Venezuela's new government, which needs to pump more dollars from oil sales into an economy short of many key products.

(AP Photo/Fernando Llano)

urday. Ramirez said Friday that Maduro would use the meeting to propose creating a special economic zone for group members. PDVSA, which accounts for 96 percent of the country's export earnings, no longer "generates enough income to cover all its costs and finance its commitments," said Pedro Luis Rodriguez Sosa, an energy expert at the Institute for Advanced Studies in Administration in Caracas. He said that "you can see PDVSA is in trouble" at the \$100-a-barrel level because of the many millions lost to gasoline subsidies and spending on domestic social spending and PDVSA's use as a "geopolitical tool" to maintain regional alliances.

rose 35 percent. Its debt to the Central Bank of Venezuela reached \$26.19 billion last year, a nearly eight-fold increase in two years. The government makes no apologies. It says it is employing the country's most important natural resource for the good of the people and promises increased production and revenues in the immediate future. Ramirez said that PDVSA's efforts remained focused on developing the remote Orinoco belt, site of the world's biggest oil reserves, with the aid of oil firms from China, Russia, the U.S., Italy, Vietnam, Malaysia, Japan and Spain. Venezuela hopes to lift overall production to some 3.32 million barrels a day, 200,000 more than last year.

"We're in a process of trying to attract investment in dollars other than ours," Ramirez said, assuring reporters that PDVSA would work with private investors to not take on more debt to make new investment. Outside experts, however, are deeply skeptical. They say PDVSA is badly mismanaged and that even a radical overhaul would take years to show results. Rather than reinvesting enough profits in exploration and maintenance, Chavez dedicated oil revenues to social spending such as building hundreds of thousands of homes and free medical clinics for the poor, they say. Last year PDVSA said it spent \$28.83 billion, nearly a quarter of its income, on various state programs. PDVSA also loses billions subsidizing gasoline for Venezuelan drivers, who pay less to fill up their tanks than people anywhere else in the world.

"The government of Venezuela today uses PDVSA as its petty cash box to lead populist social programs," said Jorge R. Pinon, associate director of the Latin America and Caribbean Program at the University of Texas, Austin. "Whatever capital is left in PDVSA is being mismanaged, mismanaged because they're just not focused on running the company. ... They're focused on building hospitals and schools."

On top of that, state oil company PDVSA dedicates 42 percent of its production to favored partners in the Caribbean and to consumption inside Venezuela, where gasoline is almost free, which means it can sell less than 60 percent at market price. □

Ginseng and bear bile: North Koreans look to old cures

MARGIE MASON
AP Medical Writer

PYONGYANG, North Korea (AP) —

The Man Nyon Pharmacy is lined with rows of colorful packages containing everything from dried bear bile and deer antler elixir to tiger bone paste and ginseng. But the ancient "Koryo" medicine provided at this popular dispensary isn't just for minor aches and pains.

It has been integrated into the health system from the smallest village clinic all the way up to the nicest showcase hospitals in the privileged capital of Pyongyang. Both modern and traditional styles of healing have long been uniquely intertwined nationwide with doctors from both schools working in tandem under one roof.

North Korean physicians say many patients prefer traditional medicine to the Western kind, but it's difficult to determine the true situation in this closed and impoverished society where access is limited. Defectors, foreign aid workers and North Koreans agree that many Western drugs are scarce and say villagers still forage for plants in some areas to make their own herbal concoctions.

With the U.N. Security Council imposing its toughest-ever sanctions following North Korea's third nuclear test in February, patients may become even more dependent on these home-grown remedies in a country of 24 million people where government health spending ranks among the world's lowest.

"Doctors are more interested in Koryo medicine rather than Western medicine because they can get it more easily," said Ri Hye Yong, who manages the frigid concrete pharmacy opened by the government nearly three decades ago. "It's much cheaper." The latest restrictions are meant to squeeze new young leader Kim Jong Un and the ruling class by clamping down on access to foreign travel and luxury goods. North Korea has responded with tirades that include threatening nucle-

ar attacks against the U.S. and its allies.

The resolution is not supposed to block donor aid to those who need it most, including the two-thirds of the population who don't have enough to eat. But foreign aid workers say years of limitations have created a maze of red tape and approvals needed to ship in medical supplies and equipment. Some countries refuse to process payments for anything involving North Korea because of restrictions placed on banks, while some foreign companies and organizations simply do not want to be involved once they learn where the materials are headed. But once the goods arrive, they say the process becomes fairly simple.

"Even though the imposed sanctions clearly exclude humanitarian assistance, a negative impact on the levels of humanitarian funding has been experienced," the U.N. Resident Coordinator's Office in Pyongyang said in a statement April 29, adding nearly three-quarters of the \$147 million needed this year has not been received.

"I think Koryo medicine has

the benefits of some age-old treatments is lacking, therapies such as massage and acupuncture — which can also serve as a local anesthetic — are now widely used in the West. Some North Korean clin-

ics have their own greenhouses, and herbs are harvested every year in the wild to be processed into teas and other concoctions. The government says Koryo medicine is used to treat more than half the patients in rural clinics. But shortages exist too. Patients are often pre-

scribed a simple herb they are expected to get themselves, said Dr. Byungmook Lim, a professor at South Korea's Pusan National University School of Kore-

quent shortages of antibiotics meant high-level officials got treated first, while ordinary patients struggled to find medicines.

"I was really angry. They



A pharmacist waits for customers at the Man Nyon Pharmacy, the nation's largest dispensary of traditional "Koryo" medicine, in Pyongyang, North Korea. North Korea began marrying traditional medicine with modern practice in the 1950s after the Korean War.

(AP Photo/David Guttenfelder)



Bottles of deer antler elixir sit on a shelf at the Man Nyon Pharmacy, the nation's largest dispensary of traditional "Koryo" medicine, in Pyongyang, North Korea.

(AP Photo/David Guttenfelder)

mysterious characteristics," said Dr. Ryu Hwan Su, the hospital's deputy chief, who proudly displayed a jar filled with a fat ginseng root believed to be more than a century old. "It heals illnesses that Western medicines can't treat."

Traditional medicine is used widely in many Asian

ics have their own greenhouses, and herbs are harvested every year in the wild to be processed into teas and other concoctions. The government says Koryo medicine is used to treat more than half the patients in rural clinics. But shortages exist too.

Patients are often pre-

an Medicine, who co-authored a study comparing traditional medicine in the two Koreas.

The country began marrying traditional medicine with modern practice in the 1950s after the Korean War. Doctors were given training in Koryo medicine and each hospital was set up with a department devoted to it, with prevention as the guiding concept behind the socialized health plan. Unlike in other Asian countries where the two practices are typically kept separate, traditional practitioners in North Korea can prescribe modern drugs and assist during surgeries, while Western doctors can use Koryo treatments.

"We kept talking to each other and consulting each other," said Kim Jie-eun, who graduated from a Koryo school with some modern training, and practiced in North Korea as a pediatrician and internal medicine doctor before defecting in 1999. She now runs a traditional clinic in Bucheon, South Korea, and recalls that even acupuncture needles were reused in the North. She said fre-

were the same human beings," she said. "How this could happen?"

But she believes combining the two types of treatment was actually better for patients. She said Koryo medicine — taken from the old name for Korea — was often used alone or in combination with Western drugs to treat a variety of health problems including stroke, hepatitis, high blood pressure, kidney disorders and diabetes.

Koryo medicine was thrust into the international spotlight when five members of the North Korean female soccer team tested positive for steroids at the 2011 Women's World Cup in Germany. North Korean officials said the players took traditional musk deer gland as therapy after they were struck by lightning during training. Soccer authorities said they had never seen the substance found in the women's systems, and the squad was sent home in disgrace.

Animal products are a major part of Koryo medicine, along with various traditional healing used in other Asian countries. □



Aruba Marriott Resort hosts Canadian Wedding Planners

PALM BEACH, ARUBA (May 2, 2013) –The Aruba Marriott Resort and Stellaris Casino Sales team hosted fifteen wedding planners from Canada recently for a dinner reception at the resort's outdoor venue the West Lawn. Together with Aruba Tourism Authority's representative Colleen Lessard the group of wedding planners experienced a wedding dinner reception at the Aruba Marriott. Sales Coordinator Abigail van der Linden

arranged an intimate reception and dinner in an outdoor wedding décor. Guests enjoyed hors d'oeuvres and a three course plated dinner menu from the resort's banquets menus and live entertainment by violinist Angela to set the romantic atmosphere. After a short site inspection, the wedding planners showed great interest in the resort and were impressed with the Marriott venue locations, food and the guest service. Aruba Marriott Resort &

boasts 411 guestrooms each with private balconies overlooking cascading waterfalls, a free form swimming pool and tranquil Caribbean waters. Guest exclusivity is attainable on the eighth floor through the Tradewinds Club, a boutique, 'hotel-within-a-hotel' concept that is paired perfectly with the new adults-only pool and lounge area. On property dining options range from light to elegant with seven restaurants and cafes, while entertainment and relaxation can be achieved in the island's largest casino, or in the 6,500 square-foot spa. To obtain more information call the Aruba Marriott Resort & Stellaris Casino at 1.800.228.9290 or visit www.arubamarriott.com or www.tradewindsclubaruba.com. Connect with the Aruba Marriott's official Facebook fan page by visiting www.facebook.com/ArubaMarriott and follow on Twitter @ArubaMarriott. □



Aruba says “Masha Danki” to loyal visitors!

PALM BEACH - Recently the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure of honoring two very nice families who are Loyal and friendly visitors of Aruba, as Goodwill Ambassadors, at their home away from home, the Playa Linda Beach Resort on Aruba. The symbolic honorary title is presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as

a token of appreciation to guest who visits Aruba for 20+ years consecutive. The honorees are Cosmo and Fran De Santis, residents of Bedford, Massachusetts, honored as Goodwill Ambassadors for 21 years, and Joseph and Tonny Lenihan, residents of Rochester, New York, honored as Goodwill Ambassadors for 22 years. All of

the honorees are members of the Playa Linda Beach Resort and have been enjoying the island every year they visit. Darline S. deCuba, representing Aruba Tourism Authority, together with Yvette Tromp, representing Concierge and Wedding Coordination conducted the ceremony at Playa Linda Beach Resort.





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Floyd Mayweather Jr. reacts to fans as he sits atop the shoulders of Leonard Ellerbe after defeating Robert Guerrero during a WBC welterweight title fight, Saturday, May 4, 2013, in Las Vegas.

The Associated Press

Mayweather dominates Guerrero, looks ahead

By TIM DAHLBERG
AP Boxing Writer

LAS VEGAS (AP) -- Floyd Mayweather Jr. did nothing to deserve the occasional boos that echoed through the MGM Grand arena during the later rounds of his fight with Robert Guerrero.

He didn't deserve any blame for fans leaving early, either, though hundreds found their way to the exit even before the 12th round began.

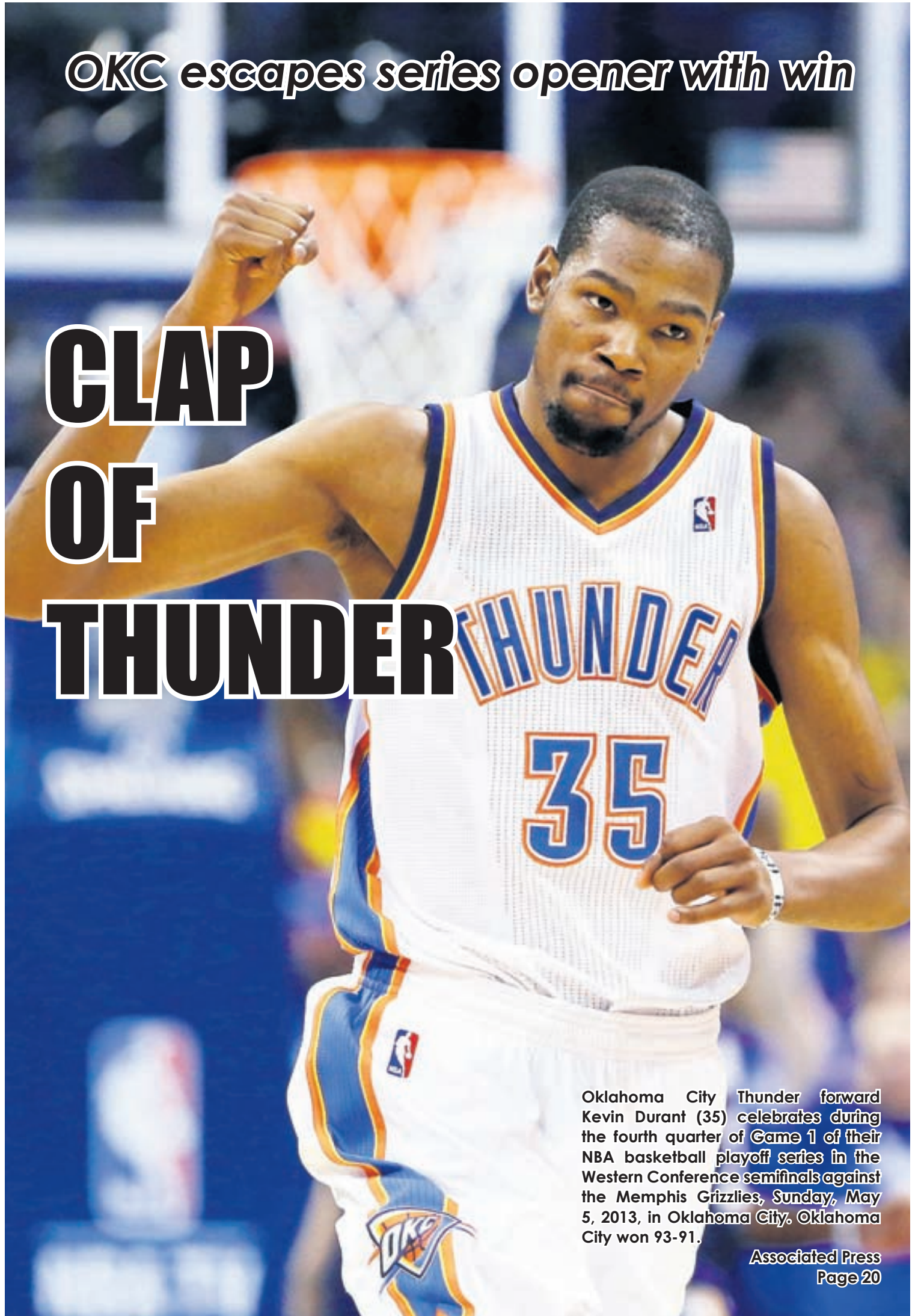
If they were spending \$1,000 and up for tickets to a brawl, they should have known better. Mayweather built a career on not getting hit, and there was no reason to think he was going to make the same mistakes as last year against Miguel Cotto against a fighter whose only hope of winning was to rough him up.

Instead of booing, they should have been applauding. Instead of leaving, they should have been on their feet cheering.

Continued on Page 19

OKC escapes series opener with win

CLAP OF THUNDER



Oklahoma City Thunder forward Kevin Durant (35) celebrates during the fourth quarter of Game 1 of their NBA basketball playoff series in the Western Conference semifinals against the Memphis Grizzlies, Sunday, May 5, 2013, in Oklahoma City. Oklahoma City won 93-91.

Associated Press
Page 20

Rookie Derek Ernst wins Wells Fargo in a playoff

DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

CHARLOTTE, North Carolina

(AP) — A week like no other at Quail Hollow held one final surprise Sunday when 22-year-old rookie Derek Ernst birdied the 18th hole to force a playoff, and then won the Wells Fargo Championship on the first extra hole against David Lynn of England.

Ernst was playing only his ninth PGA Tour event. He was the fourth alternate at the start of the week. He was No. 1,207 in the world ranking. None of that mattered when he choked up on a 6-iron from 192 yards and drilled his shot into 4

feet. He made one of only four birdies on the 18th in the final round, and this was the most important. It gave him a 2-under 70 and put him in a playoff with Lynn, who also shot 70. The shot was no fluke. On the 18th hole in the playoff, as the cold rain started coming down harder, Ernst hit a 3-iron left of the flag to 15 feet.

Lynn went from the bank of a creek to the bunker to the rough behind the green, and Ernst was able to win with a par. Phil Mickelson, who had a one-shot lead with three holes to play, made bogeys on the 16th and 17th

holes, and he narrowly missed a 20-foot birdie putt on the 18th that would have allowed him to join the playoff. He had a 73 and finished third.

"This feeling is unbelievable right now," said Ernst, who wasn't sure where he was going at the start of the week and can't believe where he's going now.

For starters, the victory at Quail Hollow gets him into The Players Championship next week. He qualifies for two World Golf Championships, the PGA Championship, the Tournament of Champions next year at Kapalua and the Masters next April.



Derek Ernst, right, is congratulated by his caddie Aaron Terry, left, after winning the Wells Fargo Championship golf tournament at Quail Hollow Club in Charlotte, N.C., Sunday, May 5, 2013. Associated Press

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And to think he started this week in a rental car driving from New Orleans to Georgia to play a Web.com Tour event. He received a call Monday afternoon that enough players had pulled out — several stayed away because of the ragged greens — that he was in the Wells Fargo Championship.

The rest of the week was a blur.

The greens were choppy all week, surprising for a club that prides itself on the most pristine conditions. The sun didn't shine all week, and it was colder on the first weekend of May in Charlotte than it was at Pebble Beach in February. Early in the final round, the leaderboard featured Mickelson and Nick Watney at the top, with Rory McIlroy and Lee Westwood right behind.

When it was over, the winner was Ernst, who grew up in the central valley of California and has cloudy vision out of his right eye from a freak accident as a kid.

Ernst won just over \$1.2 million and most important to him was the two-year exemption that comes with winning.

Robert Karlsson, the Swede who now lives in Charlotte, needed a birdie on the last hole to get into the playoff but made bogey for a 72. That left him in a tie for fourth with Westwood, who was tied for the lead until back-to-back bogeys early on the back nine.

McIlroy was one shot behind when he made a double bogey on the 12th hole. He played that hole in 4-over for the week. He had a 73 and tied for 10th. □



Mayweather

Continued from Page 17

On the canvas where he does his best work, Mayweather painted a boxing masterpiece only he could produce. "Everyone was saying at the age of 36 I don't have it no more," Mayweather said. "All I want to do is give fans exciting fights."

This one wasn't as much exciting as it was brilliant. Mayweather used defensive skills built up over a lifetime to take apart a very good fighter Saturday night and do it in such lopsided fashion that ring-side judges seemed to be searching for a round to give to Guerrero.

He hit Guerrero with right hand leads all night and might have knocked him out had he not hurt his hand in the eighth round. When Guerrero tried to land big shots of his own, Mayweather was either smothering him on the

ropes or had danced out of harm's way.

It was a \$32 million display of all that's right about the sweet science. And if it didn't satisfy all the fans at the MGM Grand or those who paid \$69.95 for the pay-per-view, it kept Mayweather undefeated in 44 fights in what is becoming a remarkable boxing career. "I showed the world I can still box," Mayweather said. "I showed my defense is still there. I'm still fast." Most importantly, perhaps, it showed Mayweather himself that he still has it. After spending two months in jail and a year out of the ring, he returned with a performance that was vintage Mayweather. His father was back in the corner and was put to good use. Both Floyd Sr. and Floyd Jr. thought the boxer got hit too much when he went toe-to-toe with Cotto last May and were determined to focus on defense against Guerrero, who tried his best for 12 rounds to turn the fight

into a brawl, to no avail.

The plan was to hit and not get hit. It worked to perfection, with Guerrero landing only 19 percent of his punches to 41 percent for Mayweather.

"The less you get hit, the longer you last in boxing," Mayweather said. Mayweather has followed that creed so well that he has lasted 17 years in the sport, and he looks no worse for the wear. He's managed to build a boxing empire on pay-per-view sales despite having a style that is less than crowd pleasing, and his \$32 million payday for Guerrero shows he remains a huge attraction. He wants to fight again in September, which would be the first time since 2007 he fought twice in a calendar year. That could be delayed by his injured right hand, though Mayweather insisted after the fight he would be ready to go.

The question now becomes who Mayweather will face. Upcoming Mexican star Canelo Alvarez



Floyd Mayweather Jr. lands a left jab against Robert Guerrero in the fourth round during a WBC welterweight title fight, Saturday, May 4, 2013, in Las Vegas.

Associated Press

would be the most attractive fight, but the short lead time to September virtually ensures that bout won't happen until at least next May, at best. Mayweather is in the unique position where he can handpick his opponents, and he's been criticized for trying to find fighters he knows he can beat. Alvarez would be a risky fight, one Mayweather

might want to save until late in the remaining five fights he has under a deal with Showtime that he says will be the last of his career. "He's a young guy," Mayweather said of Alvarez. "Floyd Mayweather isn't going to duck anybody. My job is to go out there, rack up victories and be the best Floyd Mayweather I can be." □

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NBA Roundup

Thunder, Pacers earn Game 1 wins in the playoffs

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — Kevin Durant scored 35 points and hit a pair of jumpers in the final minute to lift the Oklahoma City Thunder to a 93-91 victory over the Memphis Grizzlies on Sunday in Game 1 of the Western Conference semifinals.

In Oklahoma City, Derek Fisher poked the ball away from Mike Conley to spring Durant the other way, and he pulled up to make a shot with 11.1 seconds left that put Oklahoma City up 91-90.

Quincy Pondexter had a chance to send the game to overtime when he was fouled attempting a 3-pointer with Memphis trailing 93-90 and 1.6 seconds remaining. But he missed the first free throw. On the Grizzlies' previous possession, Thabo Sefolosha deflected an inbounds pass, and Conley landed out of bounds while diving for the ball. Reggie Jackson then hit two free throws to make the lead three.

But Jackson hacked Pondexter on his right arm before he released a 3-pointer from the left wing in an attempt to tie it. Pondexter,

a 72 percent career free-throw shooter, made his second attempt before purposefully missing the third, but Durant swatted

Conley scored 13 apiece. Kevin Martin scored 25 for Oklahoma City, which trailed for much of the game but was able to

tage away from the New York Knicks, as David West scored 20 points in a 102-95 win in Game 1 of their Eastern Conference semifinals.

the Knicks' first second-round game since 2000.

Anthony finished with 27 points and 11 rebounds, but was frustrated by the



Oklahoma City Thunder forward Kevin Durant (35) dives to keep a ball from going out of bounds during the third quarter of Game 1 of their NBA basketball playoff series in the Western Conference semifinals against the Memphis Grizzlies, Sunday, May 5, 2013, in Oklahoma City. Oklahoma City won 93-91.

Associated Press

the rebound away and Marc Gasol's attempt at a buzzer-beater was late.

The Grizzlies got 20 points and 10 rebounds from Gasol and 18 points and 10 rebounds from Zach Randolph. Pondexter and

avoid repeating its Game 1 loss from when these two teams met in the West semifinals two years ago. The Thunder were able to rally and win that series in seven. The Indiana Pacers took home-court advan-

In New York, Paul George scored 19 points and D.J. Augustin added 16 for the Pacers, who built a 16-point lead while Carmelo Anthony was on the bench in foul trouble in the third quarter, and easily held on to spoil

Pacers' rugged defense and by the referees. He shot 10 of 28 from the field. The Pacers, who allowed the second-fewest points per game and the lowest field goal percentage in the league during the regular season, mixed in solid offense as well. They outscored New York 59-38 across the middle two quarters and were comfortably ahead throughout the fourth.

Roy Hibbert scored 14 points in thoroughly outplaying counterpart Tyson Chandler, and George Hill also had 14 for the

Pacers. J.R. Smith scored 17 points but was 4 of 15 for the Knicks. Raymond Felton had 18 and Kenyon Martin added 12 for the Knicks, who hope to have reserves Amare Stoudemire (right knee surgery) and Steve Novak (back spasms) back for Game 3 and certainly looked as if they could use the help. □



Miami Heat's LeBron James poses for photos during an NBA basketball news conference, Sunday, May 5, 2013, in Miami. James was formally announced as having won his fourth Most Valuable Player award Sunday.

Associated Press

TIM REYNOLDS
AP Basketball Writer

MIAMI (AP) — LeBron James is the overwhelming choice as the NBA's Most Valuable Player.

The Miami Heat star took 120 of 121 first-place votes in this year's balloting, giving him the award for the fourth time. Oklahoma City's Kevin Durant finished

James wins MVP, 1 vote shy of unanimously

second and the New York Knicks' Carmelo Anthony was third.

James' selection was not unanimous, despite plenty of suggestions from people around the league in recent weeks that he was worthy of that honor. Anthony received the only other first-place vote from a panel of broadcasters and sports writers who cover the league.

The NBA released the results Sunday, when James was presented with the award.

Shaquille O'Neal had been the closest to sweeping ev-

ery first-place vote, taking 120 of a possible 121 in the 1999-2000 balloting.

James becomes the fifth player with at least four MVP awards, joining Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, Michael Jordan, Bill Russell and Wilt Chamberlain. All four of James' awards have come in a five-year span, something only done by Russell.

James averaged 26.8 points, 8.0 rebounds and 7.3 assists this season, leading Miami to a league-best 66-16 record while shooting a career-high 56 percent. It was no surprise that

he won the award, given that it had been expected for months, with the lone questions being "When?" and "Was it unanimous?" The first of those answers came Friday, when it was learned that Sunday would be the day. The other came not long before James was honored on the floor of the American Airlines Arena in Miami, where the Heat will open an Eastern Conference semifinal series Monday night against the Chicago Bulls.

"The guy is as good as it gets," Heat guard Dwyane Wade said. □



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Sky team cyclists pedal on their way to winning a team time trial, in the second stage of the Giro d'Italia, in the southern Italian island of Ischia, Sunday, May 5, 2013. Tour de France winner Bradley Wiggins powered the Sky team to victory and moved into second place overall, while his Italian teammate Salvatore Puccio took the leader's pink jersey. Associated Press

Wiggins takes control with team time trial win

ANDREW DAMPF
AP Sports Writer

ISCHIA, Italy (AP) — Bradley Wiggins is already in control of the Giro d'Italia. The Tour de France winner powered Sky to victory Sunday in the Italian classic's second stage, a team time trial, and moved into second place overall. The only person in front of him is Italian teammate Salvatore Puccio, who is regarded mainly as a support rider but took the leader's pink jersey because of his better result in Saturday's opening stage.

"It's a bit unexpected but I'm happy to have it," Puccio said. "I've got to thank the team. It was a great team effort."

Sky clocked 22 minutes, 5 seconds along the picturesque 17.4-kilometer (10.8-mile) route on the island of Ischia. Movistar was second, 9 seconds behind, and Astana — featuring Wiggins' expected title rival, Vincenzo Nibali of Italy — was third, 14 seconds back.

The Omega Pharma-Quick

Step team featuring stage 1 winner Mark Cavendish finished 17th, 48 seconds behind Sky.

Omega sorely missed its time trial specialist Tony Martin, who is not riding the Giro.

Wiggins, the Briton who followed his Tour title with a gold medal in the time trial at last year's London Olympics, has the same time as Puccio in the overall standings. Another Sky rider, Sergio Henao Montoya of Colombia, is third overall, also with the same time.

The nine Sky riders took part in a wild podium celebration, dousing each other with the provided bottles of champagne.

"Today went well but this just the start," said Sky team director Marcus Ljungqvist. Wiggins gained 14 seconds on Nibali and 25 seconds on defending champion Ryder Hesjedal of Canada. "It was a good performance for our team," Nibali said. "We're not time trial specialists — most of us are climbers — so this is OK." □

Serena Williams advances to Madrid Open 2nd round



Serena Williams from U.S. returns the ball to Yulia Putintseva from Kazakhstan during the Madrid Open tennis tournament, in Madrid Sunday, May 5, 2013. Associated Press

MADRID (AP) — Top-ranked Serena Williams advanced to the second round of the Madrid Open on Sunday as players applauded the tournament's return to red clay after its trial with blue "smurf" clay flopped last year.

After dispatching Yulia Putintseva of Kazakhstan 7-6 (5), 6-1, the defending champion echoed the sentiment, saying she liked the new courts at the Caja Magica.

"I think these clay courts are really good," she said. "I think they're a little bit faster than the ones I was practicing on in Paris. For me, that's always a good sign."

Rafael Nadal and Novak Djokovic were even more enthusiastic about the removal of the blue clay, which both players had heavily criticized for being slippery after early exits last year.

"I think that obviously the court last year was not up to the level that we need-

ed," Nadal said. "It was not prepared to be a competitive court."

"But the courts are impressive this year. In Madrid, we have the problem of the dry climate, so it's very difficult to have the clay that settles down properly, a clay that's the same as in other places. I think this year we have managed to have good clay here."

Djokovic called the traditional red clay "great," adding that everything he had heard from other competitors was "positive." The world's top-ranked player had threatened along with Nadal to not come back unless the blue clay was discarded.

Roger Federer won here last year despite the challenge the slick courts posed. The Swiss star was nevertheless pleased with the decision to go back to a standard playing surface, saying that the new courts were the best he had seen at the event.

"I don't know if that was

due to the color, but this tournament has in the past had issues with the quality of the court," Federer said. "I think through what happened last year, you know, the controversy around the blue clay, I think it was a big eye-opener to have a proper court here now."

Nadal, Djokovic, and Federer have first-round byes. In Williams' opening match, Putintseva broke her serve early to take a 3-1 lead in the first set. But Williams soon settled down after breaking serve and, once through the tie-breaker, dominated the second set. "I felt a little sluggish out there, but I'm happy I was able to win the match," Williams said.

"Honestly, I obviously have to and want to play better as each match goes on." She next faces Lourdes Dominguez-Lino of Spain. Serena's sister Venus withdrew early Sunday morning before her first-round match due to back problems. □

Prostate cancer guidelines recommend fewer tests

ANDREW POLLACK

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In a major shift, the American Urological Association has pulled back its strong support of prostate cancer screening, saying the testing should be considered primarily by men ages 55 to 69. The association had staunchly defended the benefits of screening men with the prostate test, even after a government advisory committee, the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force, said in 2011 that healthy men should not be screened because far more men would be harmed by un-

necessary prostate cancer treatments than would be saved from death.

But in new guidelines issued Friday, the urology association says routine screening is no longer recommended for men 40 to 54 years old who are at average risk of getting prostate cancer. Screening is also not recommended for men 70 and older. The guidelines say men 55 to 69 should discuss the benefits and harms of screening with their doctors. And if they do choose screening, an interval of two years rather than annually would be better.

"It's time to reflect on how we screen men for prostate cancer and take a more selective approach in order to maximize benefit and minimize harms," Dr. H. Ballentine Carter, a professor of urology and oncology at Johns Hopkins University and chairman of the committee that drafted the guidelines, said in a statement. The urology association's previous recommendation, issued in 2009, was that blood testing for PSA, which stands for prostate-specific antigen, should be offered to men starting at age 40. Millions of men now get the

PSA test, many as part of their annual checkup.

When the government advisory task force recommended against screening, urologists, who treat many men with prostate cancer, expressed outrage, with one saying the policy was "flawed, dangerous and catastrophic for men." But some prostate cancer experts say the association risked losing credibility had it stuck to its recommendations for widespread screening. The new guidelines, they say, could preserve PSA screening by recommending more moderate use.

The association "is not dismissing the PSA test as the task force has done," said Dr. Philip W. Kantoff, a prostate cancer specialist at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in Boston who was a member of the guidelines committee. "There should be a more reasonable approach to the use of PSA." Dr. David F. Penson, chairman of the urology association's health policy council, said the new guidelines reflected the results of two recent clinical trials. "We just put our recommendations in line with the evidence," he said. The problem with screening is that levels of PSA in the blood can be elevated for reasons having nothing to do with prostate cancer. That leads many men to have unnecessary biopsies, which can cause pain and infections. And biopsies find many cancers that would be so slow growing that they would never harm the man. Because it is difficult to distinguish the dangerous from the nonaggressive tumors, however, most men undergo surgery or radiation treatments and then suffer from side effects like incontinence and erectile dysfunction. In its guidelines Friday, the association said that for men 55 to 69, screening would prevent one prostate cancer death for every 1,000 men screened over a decade. The guidelines say that some men at higher-than-average risk of getting prostate cancer, such as those with a family history or who are African-Americans, could discuss the benefits and harms of starting screening at an age earlier than 55.

Some experts skeptical of screening have noted that the advent of PSA testing led to a big jump in the number of diagnoses of prostate cancer, increasing the business of urologists. The PSA test underpins a prostate cancer industry, consisting of laboratories that do biopsies, manufacturers of surgical robots and radiation equipment, even suppliers of adult diapers. □

DNA research points to new insight into cancers

GINA KOLATA

© 2013 New York Times

Scientists have discovered that the most dangerous cancer of the uterine lining closely resembles the worst ovarian and breast cancers, providing the most telling evidence yet that cancer will increasingly be seen as a disease defined primarily by its genetic fingerprint rather than just by the organ where it originated.

The study of endometrial cancer – the cancer of the uterine lining – and another of acute myeloid leukemia, published simultaneously on Wednesday by Nature and The New England Journal of Medicine, are part of a sprawling, ambitious project by the National Institutes of Health to scrutinize DNA aberrations in common cancers. Over the past year, as part of this project, researchers have reported striking genetic changes in breast, colon and lung cancers that link them to other cancers. One kind of breast cancer was closely related to ovarian cancer. Colon cancers often had a genetic change found in breast cancer. And about half of squamous cell lung cancers might be attacked by drugs being developed for other cancers. The endometrial cancer and leukemia efforts alone involved more than 100 researchers who studied close to 400 endometrial

tumors and 200 leukemias. Endometrial cancer is the most common gynecological cancer in American women and strikes nearly 50,000 of them a year, killing about 8,000. Acute my-

elopments in medicine are about treatments or tests that are only useful for a certain period of time until something better comes by. But this is something that will be useful 200 years

deadly according to the genetic analysis and would require chemotherapy.

Another finding was that many endometrial cancers had a mutation in a gene that had been seen before



Dr. Douglas Levine in a cold room at his laboratory at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York, May 1, 2013. Levine and other scientists have discovered that the most dangerous cancer of the uterine lining closely resembles the worst ovarian and breast cancers, providing the most telling evidence yet that cancer will increasingly be seen as a disease defined primarily by its genetic fingerprint.

(Michael Nagle/The New York Times)

eloid leukemia, the most prevalent acute adult leukemia, is diagnosed in about 14,000 Americans a year and kills about 10,000. "This is exploring the landscape of cancer genomics," said Dr. David P. Steensma, a leukemia researcher at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute who was not involved with the studies. "Many devel-

from now. This is a landmark that will stand the test of time." The new genetic analysis of hundreds of tumors found patterns of genetic aberrations that more precisely classify the tumors, dividing them into four distinct groups. About 10 percent of tumors that had seemed easily treated with the old type of exam

now appear to be more only in colon cancers. The mutation disables a system for repairing DNA damage, resulting in 100 times more mutations than typically occur in cancer cells. It turned out to be good news. Endometrial cancers with the mutation had better outcomes, perhaps because the accumulating DNA damage is devastating to cancer cells. □

China emerging as new force in drone warfare

CHRISTOPHER BODEEN

Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — Determined to kill or capture a murderous Mekong River drug lord, China's security forces considered a tactic they'd never tried before: calling a drone strike on his remote hideaway deep in the hills of Myanmar.

The attack didn't happen — the man was later captured and brought to China for trial — but the fact that authorities were considering such an option cast new light on China's unmanned aerial vehicle program, which has been quietly percolating for years and now appears to be moving into overdrive.

Chinese aerospace firms have developed dozens of drones, known also as unmanned aerial vehicles, or UAVs. Many have appeared at air shows and military parades, including some that bear an uncanny resemblance to the Predator, Global Hawk and Reaper models used with deadly effect by the U.S. Air Force and CIA. Analysts say that although China still trails the U.S. and Israel, the industry leaders, its technology is maturing rapidly and on the cusp of widespread use for surveillance and combat strikes. "My sense is that China is moving into large-scale deployments of UAVs," said Ian Easton, co-author of a recent report on Chinese drones for the Project 2049 Institute security think tank.

China's move into large-scale drone deployment displays its military's growing sophistication and could challenge U.S. military dominance in the Asia-Pacific. It also could elevate the threat to neighbors with territorial disputes with Beijing, including Vietnam, Japan, India and the Philippines. China says its drones are capable of carrying bombs and missiles as well as conducting reconnaissance, potentially turning them into offensive weapons in a border conflict.

China's increased use of drones also adds to con-

cerns about the lack of internationally recognized standards for drone attacks. The United States has widely employed drones as a means of eliminating terror suspects in Pakistan and the Arabian Peninsula. "China is following the precedent set by the U.S. The thinking is that, 'If the U.S. can do it, so can we. They're a big country with security interests and so are we'," said Siemon Wezeman, a senior fellow at the arms transfers program at

ed in battle.

The military and associated aerospace firms have offered little information, although in an interview last month with the official Xinhua News Agency, Yang Baikui, chief designer at plane maker COSIC, said Chinese drones were closing the gap but still needed to progress in half a dozen major areas, from airframe design to digital linkups.

Executives at COSIC and drone makers ASN, Avic,

to the western province of Sichuan to provide aerial surveillance following last month's deadly earthquake there.

They may also soon be appearing over China's maritime claims, including Japanese-controlled East China Sea islands that China considers its own. That could sharpen tensions in an area where Chinese and Japanese patrol boats already confront each other on a regular basis and Japan frequent-

sailors, offer some clues about China's plans for drones.

The head of the Chinese Public Security Ministry's anti-narcotics bureau, Liu Yuejin, was quoted by state media as saying a plan had been floated to target Naw Kham's fortified camp with a drone loaded with 20 kilograms of TNT. The type of drone wasn't mentioned.

The plan was dropped by higher-ups in favor of taking Naw Kham alive, but the revelation served as a statement of Chinese intentions and capabilities.

China began developing drones in the 1960s and is believed to have used them for reconnaissance during its brief 1979 invasion of Vietnam. The program was aided by the adaptation of foreign civilian or dual-use UAVs for military purposes, then took a leap forward with the purchase of Harpy drones from Israel. Later, U.S. opposition to Israeli upgrades on the Harpys spurred China to build its own version.

China's gains are aided by the industry's relatively low costs and short production schedule and boosted by the assembly of the country's homebuilt Beidou navigation satellite system and improved high-speed data links. China's military is expected to field hundreds, if not thousands, of drones, although the overall size of the fleet is difficult to estimate and the U.S. will ultimately have many more.

Chinese UAVs range from simple propeller-driven models to the high-concept, stealthy Dark Sword, featuring a joined wing and tail assembly similar to the U.S. Avenger.

More than 90 percent of the Chinese drones now in service are variants on the simpler ASN-209 surveillance drone seen in navy drills and which are now being produced under license by Egypt.

Others include the Wing Loong, or Pterodactyl, which bears a striking resemblance to the U.S. Reaper and carries a brace of missiles. □



In this Oct. 1, 2009 file photo, a truck loaded with the Chinese made drone, the ASN-207, takes part in a military parade marking China's 60th anniversary held near Tiananmen Square in Beijing.
Associated Press

the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute in Sweden, or SIPRI.

"The justification for an attack would be that Beijing too has a responsibility for the safety of its citizens. There needs to be agreement on what the limits are," he said.

Though China claims its military posture is entirely defensive, its navy and civilian maritime services have engaged in repeated stand-offs with ships from other nations in the South China and East China seas. India, meanwhile, says Chinese troops have set up camp almost 20 kilometers (12 miles) into Indian-claimed territory.

It isn't yet known exactly what China's latest drones are capable of, because, like most Chinese equipment, they remain untest-

ed and the 611 Institute declined to be interviewed by The Associated Press, citing their military links. The Defense Ministry's latest report on the status of the military released in mid-April made no mention of drones, and spokesman Yang Yujun made only the barest acknowledgement of their existence in response to a question.

"Drones are a new high-tech form of weaponry employed and used by many militaries around the world," Yang said. "China's armed forces are developing weaponry and equipment for the purpose of upholding territorial integrity, national security and world peace. It will pose no threat to any country."

Drones are already patrolling China's borders, and a navy drone was deployed

ly scrambles fighters to tail Chinese manned aircraft. Retired Maj. Gen. Peng Guoqian told state media in January that drones were already being used to photograph and conduct surveillance over the islands, called Diaoyu by China and Senkaku by Japan.

The Pentagon says Chinese drones could boost the effectiveness of long-range radar in monitoring activity and locating targets in the western Pacific far from the Chinese coast. Their missions could include guiding home an anti-ship ballistic missile known in military circles as a "carrier killer," the Pentagon said in its 2012 report on China's military. Reports about the search for notorious river bandit Naw Kham, wanted for the 2011 murders of 13 Chinese

ECONOMIC REPORTS FOR THIS WEEK

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REPORTS

Information to be released includes the euro-area purchasing managers' index for April (Monday); U.S. consumer credit for March and China trade data for April (Tuesday); China inflation for April (Wednesday); and weekly initial jobless claims and U.S. wholesale inventories for March (Thursday).

EARNINGS

Companies scheduled to release quarterly results include Apollo Global and Target (Monday); HSBC, Societe Generale, Walt Disney Co., Electronic Arts and Whole Foods (Tuesday); Toyota, Deutsche Telekom, Standard Chartered, AOL, Tesla, Groupon, Green Mountain and News Corp. (Wednesday); and Sony and Carlyle (Thursday).

IN THE U.S.

On Monday, the Senate votes on the Internet retail tax bill.

On Tuesday, the Senate Commerce Committee will hold a hearing on credit reports; the House Energy Committee will hold a hearing on the global energy landscape; and the House Science Committee will hold a hearing on the Keystone XL pipeline.

On Wednesday, John Paulson will speak at the SALT Conference in Las Vegas; a House small business subcommittee will hold a hearing on reducing burdens for small businesses.

On Thursday, Daniel Loeb and Sam Zell will address the SALT conference.

On Friday, Ben S. Bernanke, chairman of the Federal Reserve, will address the annual conference of the Chicago Federal Reserve.

OVERSEAS

On Monday, Mario Draghi, president of the European Central Bank, will speak in Rome; and Wolfgang Schauble, the German finance minister, will talk in Hamburg, Germany, about financial market stability. □

One of a kind: Warren Buffett leads annual meeting

JOSH FUNK

AP Business Writer

OMAHA, Nebraska (AP)

— Part rock concert, part investment workshop, the annual gathering of Berkshire Hathaway shareholders is an odd mix.

But that's just how the faithful crowd of more than 30,000 who attended Saturday's version likes it.

Getting the chance to learn about business and life from Berkshire CEO Warren Buffett and spend the day with like-minded investors made it worthwhile to brave Saturday's cool, rainy weather in Omaha, Nebraska.

The level of appreciation shareholders have for Buffett becomes clear as he tours the meeting's 200,000-square-foot (18,600-square-meter) exhibit hall each year.

Admirers held their cell phones and iPads in the air as they surrounded the billionaire Saturday morning. A pack of security guards created a buffer around Buffett as he visited displays selling Berkshire's See's Candy, explained BNSF railroad's virtues and highlighted some of the company's other 80-plus subsidiaries.

At the See's booth, Buffett got a lesson in making hand-dipped bonbons. Then See's manufacturing manager Steve Powell got Buffett to autograph his white uniform coat.

The Berkshire Hathaway annual meeting began humbly in 1982 with a crowd of 15 in an insurance company cafeteria. It has been growing steadily just as the company's stock price rose to become the most-expensive in the U.S., reaching \$162,904 for a Class A share on Friday.

Now the meeting regularly

fills Omaha's 18,300-seat arena and every nearby overflow room. Buffett likes to call it "Woodstock for Capitalists."

It's the one day of the year

Cundiff said. "I was sitting at a booth, and he just walked up and sat beside us in the next booth. He autographed a dollar bill for me. I don't think he even



Investor Warren Buffett high-fives a participant in a 5K run and walk organized by the Brooks Running Company, a Berkshire Hathaway subsidiary, in Omaha, Neb., Sunday, May 5, 2013. The Berkshire Hathaway shareholders meeting is being held this weekend in Omaha. (AP Photo/Nati Harnik)

when the 82-year-old Buffett gets treated like a rock star while his friend Microsoft Chairman Bill Gates, who serves on Berkshire's board, can wander through the crowd without much recognition.

Shareholder Larry Cundiff has seen a lot of change at the meetings since he started attending about 15 years ago. He said it's hard to get within 15 feet (4.5 meters) of Buffett now.

"I met him once at a meeting in — I think — 1997,"

had security then."

Buffett again shared the stage this year with his 89-year-old business partner, Berkshire Vice Chairman Charlie Munger, to answer questions from shareholders, journalists and financial analysts for six hours.

The questions seemed somewhat tougher and more detailed because of the addition of a panel of investment professionals, including Doug Kass, who has a negative view on

Berkshire's stock.

But the bulk of the questions explored familiar themes, such as the future of Berkshire after Buffett and Munger are gone. The questioners also wanted to hear what the two men thought about the economy, the Federal Reserve and life in general.

Buffett said he thinks Berkshire will continue to thrive after he's gone because the company's employees and managers will resist any attempt to change the way it runs.

"The key is preserving the culture, and having a successor as CEO who is smart and energetic," Buffett said.

The U.S. economy should continue growing at a steady pace just as it has since the fall of 2009, Buffett said, but the Federal Reserve's efforts to stimulate growth are likely to eventually create inflation. "We've encountered far worse problems than we face now," Buffett said. "This is not our toughest hour."

Not everyone at the meeting was applauding Buffett. Outside, dozens of Utah coal miners picketed in the hopes of winning a better contract offer. A handful of environmental activists left disappointed after shareholders rejected a proposal to require Berkshire's utilities to adopt goals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Bernie Morris, of Price, Utah, stood in the rain to hand out flyers Saturday morning. The 67-year-old said he's worked for the Deer Creek coal mine for 28 years, but fears he won't be able to afford the monthly health insurance premium the company wants to charge. □

Jeweler, Costco face off over Tiffany rings

NEW YORK (AP) — A federal judge in New York has asked discount wholesaler Costco and luxury jeweler Tiffany & Co. to try to settle a multimillion-dollar trademark dispute.

Lawyers for the companies

faced off in a Manhattan courtroom Friday over Costco Wholesale Corp.'s sales of thousands of Tiffany diamond rings that weren't made by the jeweler.

Costco says Tiffany has be-

come a generic term for a mount common on engagement rings in which the stone is set in a raised claw. The New York Post reports that Costco lawyer James Dabney told the judge that saying "Tiffany

ring" is like saying "Phillips screwdriver," "Murphy bed" or "Ferris wheel."

Tiffany lawyer Jeffrey Mitchell says that if you ask 100 people on the street what Tiffany means, "they're not going to say the setting." □

US job market showing gains, but healing is slow

PAUL WISEMAN

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The American economy and job market are moving in the right direction, just not very quickly.

The news Friday that U.S. employers added a solid 165,000 jobs in April and unemployment fell to a four-year low of 7.5 percent came as a relief.

The Dow Jones industrial average surged 142 points, or 1 percent, on the news to close at a record 14,973. The better-than-expected April numbers erased worries that the U.S. economy was stalling for the fourth year in a row — a fear that had emerged after a disappointing jobs report for March. Friday's report also showed job growth in March and February was stronger than first estimated.

Nearly four years after a devastating recession, the U.S. economy and job market are far from a full recovery, but they have made steady progress. Here is an overview of America's economic health:

HIRING: PICKING UP BUT FACING A LONG SLOG

The U.S. economy has been adding 196,000 jobs a month this year, up from a monthly average of 179,000 in 2011 and 2012. Given how far it needs to go, the job market is recovering more slowly than people had hoped. The U.S. still has 2.6 million fewer jobs than it had when the Great Recession began in December 2007. At the current pace of hiring, total U.S. jobs won't reach the pre-recession level of 138 million for more than another year.

Account for population growth, and the jobs ditch is even deeper: Heidi Shierholz, an economist at the liberal Economic Policy Institute, says the economy needs to add 8.6 million jobs, not 2.6 million, to keep up with a rising population.

UNEMPLOYMENT: FALLING — BUT STILL HIGH

Unemployment has improved dramatically since peaking at 10 percent in

October 2009. But by any normal standard, April's 7.5 percent unemployment was still a recession-level figure — higher, for example, than it ever got in the short recession of 2001. The

Federal Reserve doesn't expect the unemployment rate to reach a healthy level — 6 percent or lower — any sooner than 2015.

At least unemployment fell last month from 7.6 per-

cent in March for the right reasons: More Americans reported having jobs and fewer reported being unemployed.

A big part of the drop in unemployment the past

3½ years has come because people have given up looking for work. Only 63.3 percent of working-age Americans were working or looking for work last month and in March. That is the lowest "labor force participation rate" since May 1979. People without a job who stop looking for one are no longer counted as unemployed. If the participation rate were at the pre-recession level of 66 percent, the unemployment rate could have reached 11.3 percent last month.

THE ECONOMY: GROWING SLOWLY

The economic recovery from the Great Recession is the slowest since World War II. Growth has been hobbled by lingering damage from a housing bust and financial crisis. The economy expanded just 2.4 percent in 2010, 1.8 percent in 2011 and 2.2 percent in 2012. It grew at an annual pace of 2.5 percent in the January-March quarter this year. □



A woman is reflected in a retail store's window display in Baltimore. Consumers have shrugged off an increase in their Social Security taxes this year and the budget shenanigans in Washington: From January through March, they spent at the strongest pace in two years. That's good news because consumers account for 70 percent of U.S. economic activity.

(AP Photo/Patrick Semansky)

After bankruptcy, a leaner Kodak to reemerge

JULIE CRESWELL

© 2013 New York Times

When Eastman Kodak emerges from bankruptcy this summer or fall, it will be a shadow of the blue-chip

will be more commercially focused, providing printing and imaging services to businesses as well as film to the movie industry.

Consumers will probably

at kiosks in their local drug stores.

Those businesses will no longer be owned or controlled by Kodak, however. As part of the more than yearlong bankruptcy process, they were sold to others.

Antonio M. Perez, Kodak's off-criticized chief executive, who has been trying to stage a turnaround of the company since 2005 and has overseen it through bankruptcy proceedings, said in a news release this week that the company had a "clear path forward" and was positioned for a "profitable and sustainable future."

Some skeptics sounded warnings, though, noting that certain commercial businesses that the company is banking on are fiercely competitive and that Kodak's own projections show steep declines in growth in other business lines.

The steady decline and evolution of Kodak's business have been felt most

strongly in Rochester, N.Y., where the company's predecessor was founded by George Eastman in 1881. Some residents of Rochester, a classic, all-American company town whose landscape is dotted with Kodak's legacy, admit that the company's days as a corporate giant are well behind it.

"I cannot remember a case that I've ever been associated with in any way where so many people wanted the company to succeed but so few people thought it actually could," said John C. Ninfo II, a retired U.S. bankruptcy judge whose grandfather worked at Kodak and whose great-uncle tended the gardens at the Eastman house. "For some, the bankruptcy proceeding has been a sorrowful thing, like losing a family member." As for Kodak's new focus on the commercial side of the business, analysts worry that growth and profits could prove difficult there as well. □



Featured is the once-revolutionary Kodak Instamatic X-15F. When Eastman Kodak emerges from bankruptcy this summer or fall, the company will be more commercially focused.

(Handout Photo)

corporate giant it once was.

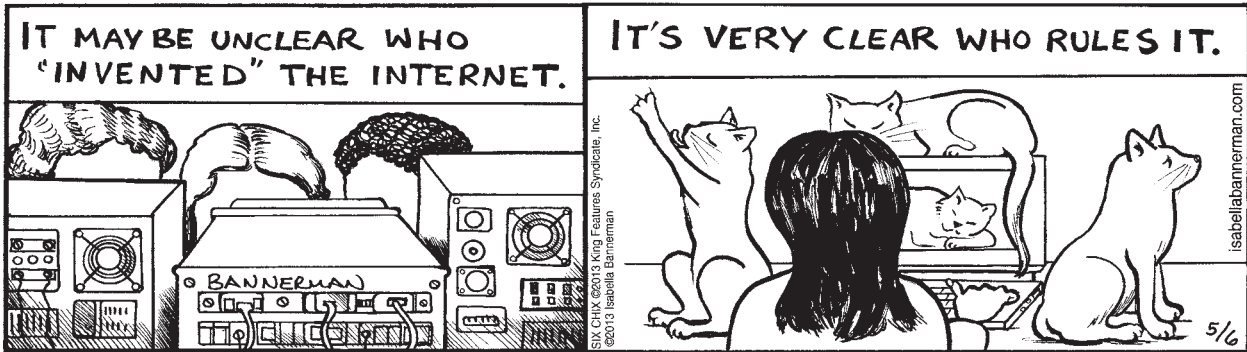
A celebrated company whose little yellow packages of film documented generations of birthday parties, weddings and anniversaries, the new Kodak

still be able to find Kodak-brand film in vacation spots around the world. They will still be able to buy digital cameras bearing the Kodak name, and they will still be able to download and print their digital pictures

Mutts



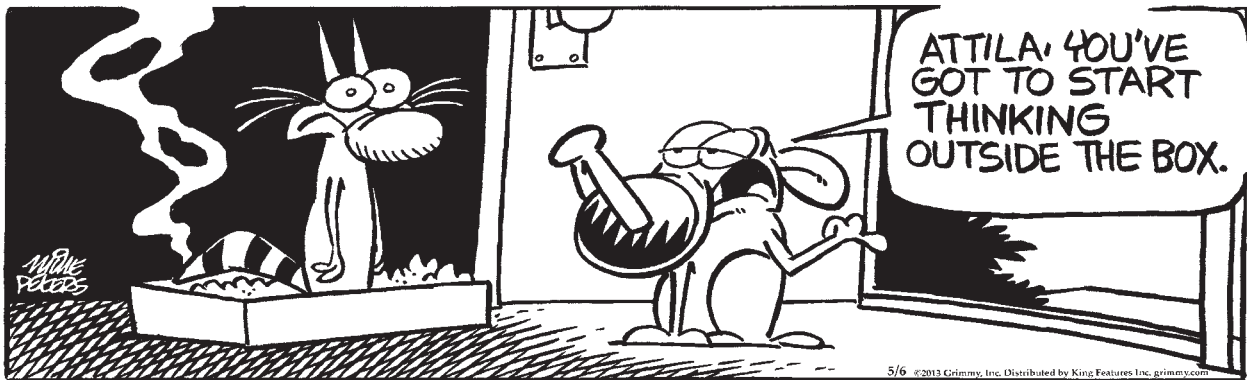
6 Chix



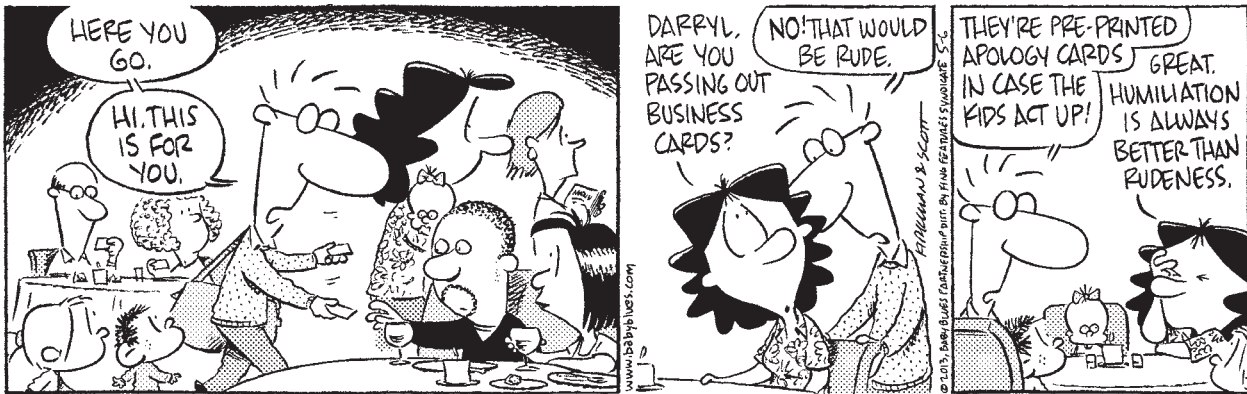
Blondie



Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

	4		7		8		5	
3				4				8
	7						3	
		6	2		9	4		
	2	4				5	6	
		7	4		3	2		
	5						1	
8				1				9
	1		3		2		7	

Difficulty Level ★

5/06

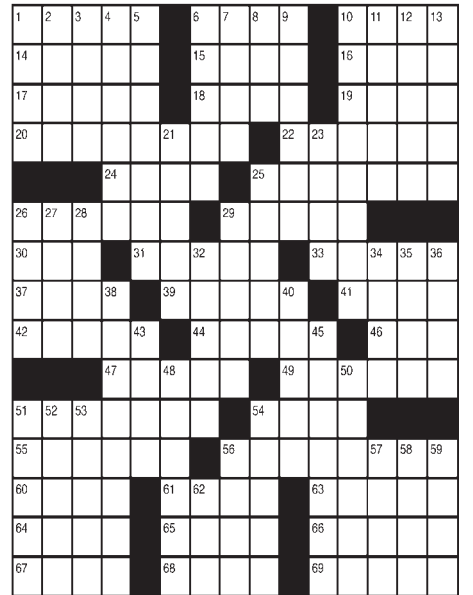
Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Saturday's puzzle answer

4	8	1	5	7	2	3	6	9
5	7	3	4	9	6	8	1	2
2	6	9	1	8	3	4	7	5
9	4	8	3	6	5	1	2	7
6	5	7	2	1	8	9	3	4
1	3	2	9	4	7	5	8	6
3	1	5	6	2	9	7	4	8
8	2	4	7	5	1	6	9	3
7	9	6	8	3	4	2	5	1

ACROSS

- Slumber
- Loose __; unfinished business
- Freeway entrance
- Curt
- Hawaiian feast
- Vase-shaped pitcher
- Kick out, as tenants
- Sothorn and Jillian
- Overdue
- Mosque towers
- Quivers
- Evergreen tree
- Eyes
- __ of; lacking
- Austin's state
- Hardware store chain
- __ for; miss terribly
- Containing much foliage
- Pretense
- Peruses
- Urgent
- Shoe bottoms
- Gets up
- Casual room
- Coil of yarn
- Poem stanzas
- Rocket-propelled weapon
- Lima's nation
- Set on fire
- Stair rail
- Run away
- Stylish
- __ from; in addition to
- Opponents
- __ over;
- assume control
- Windowsill, e.g.
- Separate into categories
- Winter toy
- Spirited horse



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

5/6/13

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

3	Moran or Gray	COOL	SPELL	STOP
4	Get away	ORLY	PAYEE	OHIO
5	Frighten greatly	CEDE	OREGON	ALIANS
6	Gladden	ASS	IRKS	ALIKE
7	Religious sisters	MALTS	ONE	
8	VP __ Quayle	GROWLS	HANDLE	
9	Chichester's county	ROBES	BOOTY	ERR
10	Fell back into a bad habit	AVID	BALES	BANE
11	Up and at 'em	MEL	JUDDS	SOFIA
12	Slightly more than 39 inches	REBATE	BOTHER	
13	Squeeze	ANT	NACHO	
21	Go into	MAPLE	MONK	PHI
23	Make well	EXALTATION	SPAN	
25	Remains unsettled	ALSO	DENSE	PERK
26	Lowest male singing voice	LEST	ODDER	ARMY

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5/6/13

DOWN

- Flower stalk
- Mr. Strauss

- Sloppiest
- Early bedtime
- Short act
- Soap operas
- Votes into office
- Baking potato
- Offends
- House of snow
- Derisive look
- Walked the floor
- Two-wheeler
- Popular detergent
- Border
- Rex or Donna
- Actor Holbrook

Silicon Valley: Security, then innovation

NICK BILTON

© 2013 New York Times

At Facebook's headquarters in Palo Alto, Calif., are stark white posters with bright red statements like "Done is better than perfect" and "Move fast and break things."

These disruptive philosophies embody the spirit not just of Facebook but of Silicon Valley. Yet today, when technology companies have become the prime targets of rogue governments and hackers, the ideologies that drive these companies to provoke could end up disrupting these companies.

Conversely, the signs sitting in security research firms across the country warn, "Carelessness causes security incidents."

Although technology companies say they take security seriously, protecting their customers seems to come second to announcing new products. Take Twitter, where people's accounts are frequently hacked. In the last few months alone, this has happened to Burger King, BBC, NPR, The Associated Press and a slew of celebrities and users. In that time, Twitter has proudly

announced updates to features on its mobile and desktop apps, introduced a music website and redesigned its company blog. But it still hasn't released two-factor authentication, a security tool used by the rest of the industry to deter hackers.

Although Twitter declined to comment, I'm sure most of the people on the site who have seen their accounts pilfered over the last several years would rather have two-factor authentication than a shiny new Twitter blog.

One solution is a bill crawling through Congress over the last two years, the Cyber Intelligence Sharing and Protection Act, known as CISA.

The bill would make it easy for tech companies to share information about computer security threats with government agencies, helping fortify against cyberattacks.

But privacy groups say that CISA is not a solution to the problem, and that instead it hands the highly sensitive personal data we want protected to the government.

"It has to be the obligation of these tech companies

to build in security from the very beginning before we start moving into solutions about bringing the government into the private sector,"

said Leslie Harris, president and chief executive of the Center for Democracy and Technology, a Washington-based advocacy group financed by a broad coalition of technology and telecommunication companies.

"You want to see these very innovative companies step up and become the leaders in security solutions first."

CISA's creators and defenders see it differently. They argue that companies are not simply fortifying against a child in his bedroom who is trying to get into their servers for fun. Today's hackers hail from foreign governments like those in China, Syria and Estonia, and are adept at getting what they want. □

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Michelle Donato

U.N. report wants moratorium on killer robots

PETER JAMES SPIELMANN

Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Killer robots that can attack targets without any human input "should not have the power of life and death over human beings," a new draft U.N. report says. The report for the U.N. Human Rights Commission posted online this week deals with legal and philosophical issues involved in giving robots lethal powers over humans, echoing countless science-fiction novels and films. The debate dates to author Isaac Asimov's first rule for robots in the 1942 story "Run-around:" "A robot may not injure a human being or, through inaction, allow a human being to come to harm."

Report author Christof Heyns, a South African professor of human rights law, calls for a worldwide moratorium on the "testing, production, assembly, transfer, acquisition, deployment and use" of killer robots until an international conference can develop rules for their use.

His findings are due to be debated at the Human Rights Council in Geneva on May 29.

According to the report, the United States, Britain, Israel, South Korea and Japan have developed various types of fully or semi-autonomous weapons.

In the report, Heyns focuses on a new generation of weapons that choose their targets and execute them. He calls them "lethal autonomous robotics," or LARs for short, and says: "Decisions over life and death in armed conflict may require compassion and intuition. Humans — while they are fallible — at



In this undated artist's rendering provided by BAE Systems, Taranis aircraft is shown. A new United Nations draft report posted online this week objects to the use of weapons systems like the Taranis that can attack targets without any human input.

Associated Press

least might possess these qualities, whereas robots definitely do not."

He notes the arguments of robot proponents that death-dealing autonomous weapons "will not be susceptible to some of the human shortcomings that may undermine the protection of life. Typically they would not act out of revenge, panic, anger, spite, prejudice or fear. Moreover, unless specifically programmed to do so, robots would not cause intentional suffering on civilian populations, for example through torture. Robots also do not rape."

The report goes beyond the recent debate over drone killings of al-Qaida suspects and nearby civilians who are maimed or killed in the air strikes. Drones do have human oversight. The killer robots are programmed to make autonomous decisions on the spot without orders from humans.

line of fire.

"Lethal autonomous robotics (LARs), if added to the arsenals of States, would add a new dimension to this distancing, in that targeting decisions could be taken by the robots themselves. In addition to being physically removed from the kinetic action, humans would also become more detached from decisions to kill - and their execution," he wrote.

His report cites these examples, among others, of fully or semi-autonomous weapons that have been developed:

— The U.S. Phalanx system for Aegis-class cruisers, which automatically detects, tracks and engages anti-air warfare threats such as anti-ship missiles

mously search, identify and locate enemies but can only engage with a target when authorized by mission command. It also can defend itself against enemy aircraft.

— The Samsung Techwin surveillance and security guard robots, deployed in the demilitarized zone between North and South Korea, to detect targets through infrared sensors. They are currently operated by humans but have an "automatic mode."

Current weapons systems are supposed to have some degree of human oversight.

But Heyns notes that "the power to override may in reality be limited because the decision-making processes of robots are often measured in nanoseconds and the informational basis of those decisions may not be practically accessible to the supervisor. In such circumstances humans are de facto out of the loop and the machines thus effectively constitute LARs," or killer robots.

Separately, another U.N. expert, British lawyer Ben Emmerson, is preparing a special investigation for the U.N. General Assembly this year on drone warfare and targeted killings.

His probe was requested by Pakistan, which officially opposes the use of U.S. drones on its territory as an infringement on its sovereignty but is believed to have tacitly approved some strikes in the past. Pakistani officials say the drone strikes kill many innocent civilians, which the U.S. has rejected. The other two countries requesting the investigation were two permanent members of the U.N. Security Council, Russia and China.

In April, an alliance of activist and humanitarian groups led by Human Rights Watch launched the "Campaign to Stop Killer Robots" to push for a ban on fully autonomous weapons. The group applauded Heyns' draft report in a statement on its web site. □



In this Feb. 4, 2011 photo released by the U.S. Navy and Northrup Grumman, the navy X-47B Unmanned Combat Air System Demonstration aircraft successfully completes its historic first flight at Edwards Air Force Base, Calif.

Associated Press

Heyns' report notes the increasing use of drones, which "enable those who control lethal force not to be physically present when it is deployed, but rather to activate it while sitting behind computers in faraway places, and stay out of the

and aircraft.

— Israel's Harpy, a "Fire-and-Forget" autonomous weapon system designed to detect, attack and destroy radar emitters.

— Britain's Taranis jet-propelled combat drone prototype that can auto-

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Will Downey suit up again after \$175M 'IM3' haul?

DAVID GERMAIN
AP Movie Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Iron Man reigns as the standard-bearer of Hollywood superheroes with a \$175.3 million domestic opening weekend for his latest sequel and an overseas haul of a half-billion dollars in less than two weeks. According to studio estimates Sunday, "Iron Man 3" has raced to a worldwide total of \$680.1 million. That includes \$175.9 million in its second weekend overseas, where the film has rung up \$504.8 million so far. No other solo superhero — not even Batman or Spider-Man — has managed this kind of business. Yet the future of Marvel Studios' flagship franchise is in the hands of a mortal man with no metal armor, gadgets or special powers, other than his ability to rebound from Hollywood pariah to hottest star on the planet. "Iron Man 3" hints that Robert Downey Jr.'s Tony Stark might hang up his high-tech suits and live a normal life from now on. As the centerpiece behind not only the "Iron Man"

films but also Marvel's superhero ensemble "The Avengers," Downey seems crucial to this comic-book world. Could Disney's Marvel Studios conjure anywhere near the same magic if it relaunched "Iron Man" with another actor? Without Downey, would the upcoming "Avengers" sequel have quite the same appeal as last year's record-grossing first installment?

"Your guess is as good as mine," said Dave Hollis, head of distribution for Disney. "Marvel has found a way to tell interesting stories with a variety of characters over time, and it will continue to do so." "Iron Man 3" had the second-biggest domestic debut ever, behind the \$207.4 million start over the same weekend last year for "The Avengers," which teamed Downey's Stark with other Marvel Comics heroes. The new sequel surpassed the \$169.2 million opening for 2011's "Harry Potter" finale, the previous second-place debut. In just nine days, the film shot past the \$312 million international total for



This film publicity image released by Disney-Marvel Studios shows Robert Downey Jr., left, as Tony Stark/Iron Man and Gwyneth Paltrow as Pepper Potts in a scene from "Iron Man 3." Associated Press

"Iron Man 2" in its entire theatrical run. Among the overseas totals so far: \$63.5 million in China, \$42.6 million in South Korea, \$38.3 million in Great Britain and \$35.8 million in Mexico. Domestically, "Iron Man 3" has far outpaced the franchise's first two movies. "Iron Man" launched the series with a \$98.6 million domestic debut in 2008, while 2010's "Iron Man 2" opened with \$128.1 million. The film also opened higher than last year's Batman finale "The Dark Knight Ris-

es" (\$160.9 million) and the biggest of the Spider-Man movies (\$151.1 million for "Spider-Man 3"). If Downey doesn't sign on for more, it would leave a gaping hole in the expanding superhero universe Marvel is taking to the big-screen. "I honestly don't know how you can go on with that character without Downey," said Paul Dergarabedian, an analyst with box-office tracker Hollywood.com. "I think he's as important to this franchise and to Marvel as any actor

is to any character." Downey seems just as vital to "The Avengers." That ensemble probably could thrive without him, given how the first film and previous solo superhero adventures have established a team that includes Chris Hemsworth's Thor, Chris Evans' Captain America, Scarlett Johansson's Black Widow and Mark Ruffalo's Hulk. But without Downey, Marvel might have to settle for something less than the colossal \$1.5 billion worldwide results for "The Avengers." "He's the spark that ignites all those characters, it seems," Dergarabedian said. "He's the lead guitarist, and they're just all kind of following him." Before convincing reluctant Marvel executives that he was the man to put on the metal suit, Downey still was trying to live down drug addiction and jail time in his 20s and 30s that nearly ruined his career. The success of "Iron Man" led to another blockbuster franchise in "Sherlock Holmes," and Downey's professional choices now look limitless. □

Trombone Shorty, Aaron Neville close Jazz Fest

CHEVEL JOHNSON
STACEY PLAISANCE
Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — For more than two decades, the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival has closed with a performance by the city's own Neville Brothers. On Sunday, that tradition changed. Aaron Neville performed on a stage with his new band while young brass band frontman Troy "Trombone Shorty" Andrews closed the festival's biggest stage — where the Neville Brothers once held court the last day. Andrews and his band, Orleans Avenue, entertained a jam-packed crowd as the festival ended its 2013 run. A sea of faces stretched to the track's back fence. Neville said he views the closing lineup change as kind of a "passing of the guard."



Jazz Pianist Ellis Marsalis, father of musicians Wynton Marsalis, Branford Marsalis, Delfeao Marsalis and Jason Marsalis, acknowledges the crowd after performing at the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival in New Orleans, Sunday, May 5, 2013. His son Jason is seen on the drums in background.

Associated Press

"Trombone Slim, as I call him, will do a great job," Neville said of Andrews. "I remember when it was Professor Longhair out there and then we did it for a long time. It's time. Slim is a big musician and

I'm proud of the way he's handled himself." Neville is promoting his new album, "My True Story," released earlier this year. At 72, he says it's the right time to focus on a solo project. "My brothers and I have

been performing together like 35 years," Neville said. "I wanted to do some other things and I couldn't do both because of my age and my health, so I decided to back off the Brothers and focus on what I wanted to do. I don't know how much longer I'm going to be here and I would be mad at myself if I didn't take the time to do me." His brothers — Art, Cyril and Charles — performed during the festival's first weekend under a new name, The Nevilles. Still, he wasn't completely without family on stage. Charles Neville plays saxophone in his quintet. Aaron Neville gave fest-goers a good sampling of the new music which covers a musical genre close to his heart — doo-wop. "If you listen to any of my music, there's a doo-wop essence to it," he said. "Since I was a little boy,

I've listened to people like Clyde McPhatter and the like. Everything I've ever done has some doo-wop in it. It's innocent music. Music that tells the story of boy meets girl. Music I can listen to with my granddaughter and my grandmother and nobody gets offended." Another closing day act was Hall & Oates, who made their Jazz Fest debut Sunday. John Oates said he and his longtime musical partner, Darryl Hall, have always wondered why this festival was never on their schedule. "I can tell you, both Darryl and I haven't been more excited about a gig in about 20 to 30 years," Oates said. "We're really psyched and excited about the opportunity." Other closing day acts included Irma Thomas, Maze featuring Frankie Beverly, The Black Keys, Taj Mahal and Pete Fountain. □

CNN's Kurtz apologizes for errors in Collins story



FILE - This April 25, 2012 file photo shows journalist Howard Kurtz at the world premiere of "Knife Fight" during the 2012 Tribeca Film Festival in New York.

By **DAVID BAUDER**
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Media critic Howard Kurtz used his CNN show on Sunday to point a finger at him-

self, apologizing for a story on gay basketball player Jason Collins that he said was riddled with errors and shouldn't have been written in the first place.

The extraordinary edition of CNN's "Reliable Sources" contained not only his apology but also a session with two other media critics who sharply questioned Kurtz's credibility.

Kurtz wrote in The Daily Beast that Collins, the NBA center who made headlines last week by being the first active player in one of the four major U.S. pro sports leagues to come out as gay, had hidden a previous engagement to a woman in his announcement. In fact, Collins revealed the engagement in his first-person Sports Illustrated story and in a subsequent interview with ABC's George Stephanopoulos.

Kurtz said Sunday that he had read the Sports Illustrated story too quickly and missed the reference to a fiancée there and elsewhere. He said he was wrong to rush the story without seeking comment from Collins, was too slow to correct himself when it became clear he was wrong and made an inappropriate comment (about playing "both sides of the court") in a video report.

Besides his "sloppy and inexcusable" errors, Kurtz said, the story itself was insensitive and shouldn't have been written.

"I apologize to readers, to viewers and, most importantly, to Jason Collins and his fiancée," said Kurtz, who spent many years as a media writer for The Washington Post.

"I hope this very candid response can help me earn back your trust over time. It is something I am very committed to doing."

The Daily Beast and Kurtz announced they were "parting ways" on the same day the mistake came to light.

Kurtz said it was amicable and had been in the works before the Collins story.

His public mea culpa included questioning from media writers David Folkenflik of NPR and Dylan Byers of Politico, who both dug deeper into Kurtz's work history and business relationships.

They questioned why Kurtz, with time-consuming jobs at CNN and as Washington bureau chief for The Daily Beast, was doing regular video commentaries for Daily Download, a media website.

Kurtz said he was paid on a freelance basis by the website and had no financial stake in its operation, though he did offer advice to the people who started it.

Kurtz said, "I'll leave it to others to judge if I've taken on too much."

They also discussed other Kurtz mistakes from the past few years: a supposed interview with Rep. Darrell Issa that was instead conducted with the congressman's aide, wrongly attributed quotes from former House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and wrongly suggesting that Fox News Channel's Greta Van Susteren had questioned the seriousness of an injury to Hillary Clinton.

Given the other mistakes, Byers wondered whether viewers should believe Kurtz had learned from the Collins error. Folkenflik asked why the audience should still trust Kurtz as a media critic.

Kurtz pointed to his track record over many years and said he would recommit himself to being more careful. □

Rule lets Oscar voters watch DVDs for some votes

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Oscar voters will no longer be required to see certain nominated films in a theater to cast their ballots.

The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences announced Saturday that members will be mailed DVDs of documentaries, shorts and foreign language nominees — categories that don't typically get lengthy stays on multiplex big screens.

President Hawk Koch says the move is an effort to expand member participation by giving voters as many opportunities as possible to see all the nominated films.

Prior to the final round of voting, the academy will mail members DVDs of films in the Foreign Language Film, Documentary Feature, Documentary Short Subject, Animated Short Film and Live Action Short Film categories.

The nomination process remains unchanged. □

Keira Knightley says 'oui' to rocker James Righton

PARIS (AP) — A French mayor says Oscar-nominated actress Keira Knightley has said "oui" to rocker James Righton in a small wedding ceremony in southern France.

Aime Navello said Sunday the couple followed French tradition when he married them at the Mazan town hall on Saturday. Navello read the service in French and the couple responded in French and English. He said about 10 people were present.

Righton is keyboard player for the rock group Klaxons. He and Knightley got engaged a year ago.

Knightley first won notice for her role as a soccer-playing teenager in "Bend It Like Beckham."

She went on to star in the first three "Pirates of the Caribbean" movies and was nominated for an Oscar for playing Elizabeth Bennet in an adaptation of Jane Austen's "Pride and Prejudice." □



British actress Keira Knightley poses as she arrives for the world premiere of Anna Karenina in London, in this file photo dated Tuesday, Sept. 4, 2012.

Associated Press

Bottoms Up, Lame Duck



MAUREEN DOWD
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WASHINGTON – During the 2012 campaign, the president and his top advisers liked to make the argument that if he was re-elected, the “fever” would break. Washington would no longer be the graveyard of progress, the crypt of consensus. Once dystopian Republicans accepted that President Barack Obama was not running again, they would start cooperating with him. But it’s beginning to sink in that the opposite may be true. The president called a news conference to mark the first 100 days of his second term, and he quickly ended up playing defense, dwelling on how hemmed in he feels.

ABC News’ Jonathan Karl asked Obama if he was already out of “juice” to pass his agenda, citing the president’s inability to get a watered-down gun bill passed in the Senate, Congress swatting away Obama on the sequester cuts, and the recent passage of a cybersecurity bill in the House with 92 Democrats on board, despite a veto threat from the White House.

“Well, if you put it that way, Jonathan, maybe I should just pack up and go home,” Obama said with a flash of irritation, before tossing off a Mark Twain line: “Rumors of my demise may be a little exaggerated at this point.”

Then he put on his best professorial mien to give his high-minded philosophy of governance: Reason together and do what’s right. “But, Jonathan,” he lectured Karl, “you seem to suggest that somehow, these folks over there have no responsibilities and that my job is to somehow get them to behave. That’s their job. They are elected, members of Congress are elected in order to do what’s right for their constituencies and for the American people.”

Actually, it is his job to get them to behave. The job of the former community organizer and self-styled uniter is to somehow get this dunderheaded Congress, which is mind-bendingly awful, to do the stuff he wants them to do. It’s called leadership.

He still thinks he’ll do his thing from the balcony and everyone else will follow along below. That’s not how it works.

How can the president star in a White House Correspondents’ Association dinner satirical film pretending to be Daniel Day-Lewis playing Barack Obama in Steven Spielberg’s movie “Obama,” and not have absorbed the lessons of “Lincoln”?

“Some folks still don’t think I spend enough time with Congress,” he said in an alleged joke at the dinner Saturday night. “‘Why don’t you get a drink with Mitch McConnell?’ they ask. Really? Why don’t you get a drink with Mitch McConnell.”

He insisted primly on Tuesday: “I cannot force Republicans to embrace those common-sense solutions. I can urge them to. I can put pressure on them. I can, you know, rally the American people around those common-sense solutions, but, ultimately, they themselves are going to have to say ‘We want to do the right thing.’”

He said that if lawmakers are worried about primaries and afraid that working with him will be seen as “a betrayal,” he can try to “create a permission structure for them to be able to do what’s going to be best for the country.”

A permission structure?

He might do better to remember what Jeremy Irons’ pope says on “The Borgias,” “Do you not see that even the impression of weakness begets weakness?”

After Syria, Obama discussed another issue where he came across like a frustrated witness to history, rather than shaper of it. After putting the moral quandary aside for political reasons, he finally began urging once more that the prison at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, be closed. A hundred prisoners there, held for a decade without trial, are on a hunger strike, some being forced Ensure through tubes in their noses, despite opprobrium from the American Medical Association.

Dianne Feinstein, who leads the Senate Intelligence Committee, sent a letter to the White House on Thursday urging the administration to review the status of 86 low-level detainees who were designated for potential transfer more than three years ago but remain in Cuba.

Asked about the hunger strike, the former constitutional law professor in the White House expressed the proper moral outrage at holding so many men “in no man’s land in perpetuity.” But it sounded as though he didn’t fully understand his own policy.

Closing Guantanamo doesn’t address the fundamental problem of rights. Obama’s solution, blocked by Congress, is to move the hornet’s nest to a Supermax prison in Illinois – dubbed “Gitmo North” – and keep holding men as POWs in a war that has no end. They’re not hunger-striking for a change in scenery.

It’s true that Congress put restrictions on transfers of individuals to other countries with bad security situations. But, since 2012, Congress has granted authority to the secretary of defense to waive those restrictions on a case-by-case basis. The administration hasn’t made use of that power once. □



The Luv Guv’s Last Stand



GAIL COLLINS
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Former South Carolina Gov. Mark Sanford’s fight for post-Appalachian Trail forgiveness ends Tuesday with a big congressional election. The focus, of course, is on issues, issues, issues.

“He skipped town to be with his mistress on Father’s Day,” says a Democratic ad currently being broadcast in the district. “Sanford even asked his wife for permission to have the affair and wasted our taxpayer dollars on himself.” OK, but that was then.

“Do you think that President Clinton should be condemned for the rest of his life based on a mistake he made in his life?” Sanford asked during a recent debate with his opponent, the Democrat Elizabeth Colbert Busch. That would be the same President Clinton that Sanford once voted to impeach.

The issue divide is actually pretty clear. Sanford is straight Tea Party; in the debate, he warned the audience that overspending had put us at the “tipping point as a civilization.” Colbert Busch, who more than held her own, kept linking herself to the Chamber of Commerce and the dredging of the local port. If the Republicans who dominate South Carolina’s 1st Congressional District want someone who will fight to reduce federal spending on everything except their area, she’d be perfect.

Sanford kept reminding the audience that Colbert Busch contrib-

uted \$500 to his first gubernatorial campaign. Unfortunately, the debate came shortly before Hustler founder Larry Flynt announced that he had donated \$2,600 to Sanford “because no one has done more to expose the sexual hypocrisy of traditional values in America today.” The former governor has certainly been plagued with unwanted supporters. His picture is prominently displayed on billboards recently erected by a website dedicated to connecting people who want to have extramarital affairs. This election won’t change the composition of the House of Representatives, which will remain its same old wild and crazy self no matter who wins. But Sanford’s fate might tell us something about how far Americans are willing to go in overlooking misbehavior on the part of a politician. We all know that voters don’t generally punish adultery. The question is whether they at least require some reassurance that the pol under scrutiny won’t wind up being really weird forever. Right now in New York, we need all the guidance we can get on this point, since we’re facing the distinct possibility of having to live through an Anthony Weiner for Mayor campaign. True, the chances are pretty slim that Weiner will ever again text pictures of his private parts to complete strangers of the female persuasion. But I think I speak for all city residents when I say that we do not have the emotional energy to come up with a complete list of other sexual feats we want taken off the table. It’s pretty certain that Sanford will never again go jetting off to meet with a South American mistress while his aides desperately assure callers that he’s gone on a wholesome camping expedition. But ever since he was found out, the former governor has been periodically behaving as if he has a screw loose.

Sanford began this particular campaign with a meeting with his former wife, Jenny, in which, she said, he asked her to run his campaign. She declined, and the next time she saw him, he was standing on her back porch under the glow of his cellphone flashlight, violating their divorce settlement that prohibits him from entering her home without permission. At a minimum, the candidate suffers from an over-optimistic assessment of his relationship with the ex.

After court documents involving Jenny’s trespassing complaint became public, Sanford ran a full-page ad comparing himself to the defenders of the Alamo. The ad was disturbing, and only partly because Sanford got the date of the fall of the Alamo wrong. It was written in the first person, in a manner that seemed designed to remind people that this is the same guy who once gave rambling, T.M.I. interviews about his marriage, his affair, and how he drew a “sex line” between normal lust objects and his Argentine “soul mate.”

“It’s been a rough week,” the ad understated. Sanford launched into an explanation of the trespassing incident and then a rebuttal of his opponent’s charges that he had spent taxpayer money on his affair. That part was virtually impossible to understand, possibly because Sanford delicately referred to paying for his flights to assignments in South America as “dealing with business class tickets.”

After quite a long ramble, Sanford wound up at the Alamo, where “a South Carolinian by the name of William Travis drew a line in the sand. â(euro) [I] Travis has a lot of fans, but you could definitely argue he was an overemotional, self-dramatizing failed family man who was precisely the kind of person you would not want as the designated leader.

□

Tobacco lovers discover the mystique of perique

DAVE THIER

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GRAND POINT, La. – About 15 years ago, the world supply of the pungent Cajun tobacco perique was down to about five barrels. One of the rarest tobaccos in the world, it comes from St. James Parish, about 50 miles west of New Orleans.

The market had been declining since a peak in the 1920s, and Percy Martin was the only full-scale farmer left. A few bad seasons had knocked his production down to the point where perique was on the verge of extinction.

Martin died last year, but not before he saw the tobacco he had spent his life with make a nearly miraculous recovery to what might be its biggest business success. His son Ray took over the farm, and this spring Ray Martin has 236 barrels sitting on his barn floor – the most he could remember seeing, ever.

"I started getting more people, must be five years ago," Martin said. "We just kept it going. We

After harvesting the plants, the farmers nail them to the rafters of a barn with a small piece of wood called a cop-cop, for the noise it makes. When the plants have dried, leaves are removed by hand and placed in oak barrels under giant jackscrews. Every few months, workers take all the leaves out, put the bottom ones on top and press them back under the screws. The entire curing process takes more than a year.

The result is a powerful experience. Fans describe perique as spicy, earthy and rich. It is a "condiment" tobacco, more akin to an intense habanero hot sauce than ketchup. It rarely makes up more than 15 percent of any given blend, and that is enough to make

tobacco enthusiasts, Christopher Brown and Matt Nichols, decided around 1998 to go see where one of their favorite products grew, they were shocked to find just a few acres of farmland left.

Brown and Nichols resolved to do something to preserve perique.

"And the end product you get is just this very unique, very spicy tobacco product. Being an old tobacco guy and a blender, it was a real experience."

In 2000, American Spirit introduced a perique cigarette, giving Martin the consistent buyer he needed. Over the years, American Spirit and its perique blend kept expanding, finding plenty of willing buyers in America and overseas. Martin also runs a processing plant for the growing ranks of perique farmers.

In 2005, a North Carolina businessman named Mark Ryan bought an old processing facility in nearby Convent, La., with a lineage going back to Pierre Chenet, thought to be the first Westerner to produce perique. Recently, he added to it. Ryan has more demand than he can fill with his local farmers, and augments his barrels with tobacco from places like Kentucky, Virginia and Canada, as his predecessor had done for years as more and more farmers left the business.

Unlike Champagne or Cuban cigars, perique lacks a legal protection defining where it must be grown or processed. But for the purist, the only true perique is grown and processed in St. James. Martin's barn is a jumble of a century of cobbled technology. There are new presses made out of metal, old presses made of logs with the bark still on, and cop-cops with nail holes worn through them lying on the floor. Increased production has brought increased scrutiny and regulations, both from the government and American Spirit, but by and large the process looks the same as it did in the early 20th century. "It's about as high-tech as it can get," Martin said. □



Perique tobacco plants on a farm in Paulina, La., May 2, 2013. There has been resurgence of interest in the tobacco from St. James parish in Louisiana with a distinctive flavor gained from barrel fermentation.
(William Widmer/The New York Times)



Perique tobacco is aged in barrels under giant jackscrews at the L.A. Poche Perique Tobacco processing plant in Convent, La., May 2, 2013.

were the last ones planting." Perique (pronounced peh-REEK) gets its distinctive flavor from barrel fermentation, a technique Louisiana settlers are thought to have picked up in the 18th or 19th century from the local Choctaws who aged tobacco in stumps. The current system has changed little since then.

its presence known. Most people in St. James have a story about someone who tried to smoke or chew perique straight. It never ends well.

The backbreaking labor associated with that preindustrial process, combined with a succession of storms and low prices, had led to a long period of attrition. When two

(William Widmer/The New York Times)

They helped Ray Martin send samples of his tobacco to major companies, and one of them ended up on the desk of Mike Little, now the president of Santa Fe Natural Tobacco Co., which makes American Spirit cigarettes.

"I was just enamored by the process and so impressed by the work ethic of these farmers," Little said.